

# Public Libraries

A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 16

January, 1911

No. 1

## The Rural Community and the Library\*

Dr Stanley Coulter, dean of the School of Science, Purdue university, Indiana\*

### I

The topic of the evening carries, by implication at least, a recognition of two facts:

1) That in some respects the rural community is not living up to its highest possibilities.

2) That because of this the library has a duty, which it is either not fulfilling or is fulfilling in a very inadequate fashion.

We are so fond of approaching the question of rural betterment from without, so ready to see the mote in its eye, so prone to fail to recognize the beam in our own eye, that it is well at the very outset to recognize the fact that a part of the difficulty in reaching a satisfactory solution of the problem may lie in the library or rather in its composition, its methods and its ideals.

The problem is rendered still more difficult, because it is expected that the subject be presented in a practical, rather than an academic fashion. That the emphasis be placed on "what can be done" conditions being as they are, rather than upon "what ought to be done" if conditions were ideal. Concerning the latter there could arise no serious differences of opinion; concerning the former, there will probably be as many distinct views as there are persons who have thought upon the subject. If to this there be added the

fact that the topic has been assigned to one who is neither a denizen of a rural community or a librarian, it is evident that abundant openings for criticism and objection will be found.

It often happens in discussions such as this that practical results are not obtained because certain inherent and basic factors are not taken into account. Surface conditions are noted and attempts made for their amelioration. The really important discussion is the one which develops the causes of those conditions and suggests plans for their modification or control.

In life in rural communities and seemingly inseparable from it are certain conditions, which make the problem under discussion one of extreme complexity, and which render its complete satisfactory solution a matter of years of careful study and wisely planned experimentation.

The isolation of the rural life is a factor not to be left out of account. From a biological standpoint "the importance of isolation in the formation of species is variously estimated, but that it is at least of great assistance, seems evident to those best acquainted with species in nature. If a varying group were isolated from all of its near relatives, so that there could be no intercrossing, the variation would be far more likely to increase and persist. In other words a variation that otherwise might disappear, may be established by isolation."<sup>1</sup> The inference which may be drawn from this statement is evident.

\*Read before the Indiana library association at South Bend, Oct. 20, 1910.

1. Text-book of Botany. Coulter, Barnes & Cowles, p. 292.

Measures of value, attitude of mind, ideals of life, which in their origin may have been sufficient to meet existing conditions, have tended by isolation to increase and persist, until at present we realize the fact that in some respects the rural community is not living up to its highest possibilities. This, not because of the nature of the work, but as the natural and inevitable result of the law of isolation. It is true that in these later days, this isolation is in the more favored communities rapidly disappearing. With rural free delivery, telephones, and automobiles, the man who lives upon the farm is in as close touch with the world as is the urban dweller, but we must remember that what has been fixed through generations of isolation will not disappear with similar rapidity. The results of isolation must be taken into account in any practical solution of the problem.

Another factor not sufficiently considered is the inevitable effect of long hours in the open air, hours of vigorous exercise, if not of hard work. It matters little how eager one may be to read or to study, after the day's work is over nature claims inexorably her right of rest. One of my former colleagues of the Purdue faculty, a young man of exceptionally alert and eager mind, was compelled by failing health to resign his position. He is now a dairy farmer, if the verbal combination is correct. The other day I chanced to pass a few hours with him and in the course of the conversation asked him if he kept up his readings in the lines in which he had made such a brilliant success as a professor. His answer was suggestive and I felt when he gave it that I would pass it on to you at this meeting. "A man who successfully manages a farm today must be up very early and even though he may not himself do any very hard work, must be out in the open air overseeing his men, studying his herds, studying his land as to its possibilities and caring for all of the multitude of small details, which successful farming

implies. When the day closes and he goes to his study, he finds himself in such a condition that careful reading, much less intensive study, is a physical impossibility to him. Sleep comes over him in great waves. I have my books, I have all my desire to pursue the subjects which I formerly taught, but it is only exceptionally that I find myself able to do any work that counts." This is a man in whom the reading habit, indeed the intensive study habit, had been thoroughly and effectively developed. If we may assume a man who has not even acquired the reading habit, the extreme difficulty of finding a "pou sto" is apparent. This physical factor enters largely into the correct solution of the question at issue. It cannot be entered into in this connection, but it is very evident that an elimination of its untoward and actually disastrous effects would involve a readjustment of hours of farm labor at least, if not a complete reorganization of farm methods.

There also enters as a determinative factor in rural communities, the effect of uniformity of occupation and interests. It makes little difference whether it shows itself in educational institutions, in library methods or in community life, uniformity makes for narrowness and retards progress. It is inevitable that in the rural community there shall be this uniformity in occupation and in outlook. The source of prosperity is the same, the land; the enemies are the same, middlemen, transportation charges, unjust laws and so on through the long category. This uniformity of occupation and of the factors conditioning success or failure tends in the direction of establishing distorted measures of value, mistaken proportions and, broadly speaking—narrowness. It speaks well for the intellectual virility of the rural community that this uniformity, this absence of stimulation resulting from contact with men of different occupations and different outlooks upon life, has not had a more blighting effect.



Life is enriched as points of contact with nature and with life are multiplied and this multiplication of these points of contact is a matter of extreme difficulty in the conditions inseparable from life in rural communities. The factor, too, is gradually becoming of less importance, because of the development of specialization in agriculture, and will become of less importance from year to year as this specialization extends. It is, however, a factor which must be taken into very careful consideration if any successful plan is devised for making the library a vitalizing force in the rural community.

Professor Bailey has sufficiently elaborated the tendency of rural life to develop "individualism."<sup>2</sup> In a certain way the members of the rural community, having a common occupation, are in competition one with another and this fact taken in connection with isolation produces individualism. Organization, effective methods of co-operation are not developed; indeed, in many cases, there seems to be no sense of a need of organization. This means that certain apparently obvious avenues of approach are closed. In the city, the first step in measures for civic betterment is to interest the clubs. But in the case in hand, we can make no such appeal, for individualism is the rule; organization, save for very definite and very practical purposes, the exception.

Another factor to be recognized is the tremendous intellectual virility of these dwellers in the "open country" to use the terminology of Professor Bailey. They know many things and know them well. A farmers' institute in its discussions of chemistry and physics as applied to farm problems; of the intricate problems of nutrition; of mendelism, of a score of other applications of science is very wonderful. The members show a firm grasp of facts and theories, a knowledge of experimentation and a clarity of expression that make such

meetings educative even to those whose mission is teaching. These men feel their strength, they glory in it and glory in it of right. I doubt if any group of men in any other occupation could talk so wisely, so broadly and so clearly concerning the principles underlying their life work as do the men of the farms and rural communities. Such men resent "uplift," they resent having missionaries sent them; they resent government Commissions, even though convinced that the appointment of the commission was for the honest purpose of discovering whether or not their condition might be bettered. And this is a factor which must be taken into account. That it is a dealing with men and women of strong mental powers, proud and rightly so of their part in the world's work and extremely sensitive. Any plan which fails to take this factor into account is foredoomed to failure.

So much for some of the basic factors which enter into the problem. Recognizing these and recognizing also their inherent nature, their inseparableness from open country conditions, what ways are open for bringing together in a mutually helpful way the rural community and the library, these two imperfectly functioning organs of the great body known as civilization?

It may be confidently affirmed that no working plan will be developed by this organization acting alone. It would be utterly impossible to impose any plan, however wise or however practical, upon our rural communities. The only plan which can carry any hope of success will be the plan which results from a mutual study of the problem by the parties interested. A sufficient number of failures in cases in which organizations far removed from rural community conditions have resolved that such conditions should be improved and have announced plans of rural betterment, confirms with sufficient emphasis this statement. To put it in another way, the library can never function efficiently

2. The training of farmers. L. H. Bailey.

in the direction of rural betterment, if it works independently. I am in most hearty accord with Professor Bailey when he says: "Working alone, however effectively they (the libraries) cannot go far toward solving the rural problem. They must tie themselves up with institutions that are engaged in developing the agricultural and rural problems."<sup>3</sup>

A second statement is also a fairly safe one. The librarian or the committee of librarians that succeeds in making any considerable contributions regarding this very perplexing line of work will be one having a first hand, personal knowledge of both phases of the subject. A committee if effective will be composed of men and women who know not only libraries and library methods, but also rural communities and the conditions which prevail in rural communities. Personally I have very little hope of any especially good thing resulting from the activities of either the library or rural community specialist. Hope lies in the men and women of clear vision who have no theories to support, no theses to maintain, and who keep ever before their eyes the need and the possible remedies.

The real question, and it should be answered with very great definiteness, is this—what does the rural community need for the attaining of its highest possibilities that the library can supply? If we can answer this question at all satisfactorily the problem is practically solved, for other matters which will supervene are merely those of detail or administrative methods. I must confess to a feeling that the answers to this question have for the most part been very vague, and rather in the nature of catalogues of needs than of a categorical answer. You will notice that I am avoiding the broader question of the needs of the rural community—concisely and definitely answered by President Butterfield as better farming, better or-

ganizations, better farmers and confining the question to possibilities lying within the reach of the library, to directions in which it and it only can function. But unless we can answer this in the definite fashion suggested, we are not apt to make much progress in the solution of the problem. In any such case the first thing is to know the problem, next the factors involved or what you have to work with, and last of all to know when you have reached a result. At present we are searching for the problem, that it, the exact thing we desire to accomplish. The first answer that I present was received from a librarian and has the merit of brevity and at the same time of inclusiveness. It was in these words "the development of the reading habit." The assumption in this answer is that in the rural community the reading habit is not developed; while this may be true in some of the more remote and isolated communities in our country it is not true as a rule. An attendance upon the meeting of any Farmers' institute will convince even the most skeptical that the dwellers in the open country read, that they not only read, but that they master what they read and further that a large part of their reading is of a very difficult sort, of a sort, indeed, that makes a very slight showing in the classified list of withdrawals from even our best libraries. True the reading covers chiefly the various fields of modern agriculture, but unquestionably a reading habit has been developed. A reading habit of a sort that is not used for the killing of time, but for the development of power. Now if this association should proceed to act upon that answer as it stands, their efforts would be met with indifference or perhaps with actual resentment. If I am not in error this has largely been the purpose of the work undertaken in this state up to the present time.

It is an unquestioned fact that some direction of the reading habit would make mightily for rural betterment. This direction should in a large measure

3. Relation of library work to rural betterment. L. H. Bailey, *Library Occurrent*, Vol. 2, No. 6, March, 1910.

be in the lines of a broadening of the field covered and of a development of an instinctive appreciation of the best in literature. Both of these are ends of sufficient importance to justify long continued and patient effort. Who is to decide how these ends are to be gained? Who is to determine the methods to be employed? Certainly not this body acting alone, nor yet a committee of this body acting alone, if deductions from past efforts teach any lessons. Even admitting for the moment that the development of the reading habit was the supreme task of the library in this movement, was the method employed, the traveling library system, the wisest? Without question it was the most evident method and at the same time one which involved few administrative difficulties. Its adoption followed as a matter of course. In a conversation with Professor Christie, the superintendent of extension work at Purdue university, I found he strongly questioned the wisdom of this method as a means for developing the reading habit. In his vigorous way he declared it was his belief that it merely amounted to attacking the problem "wrong end to." The reading habit, he declared, can never be developed by sending books to the rural communities for a few weeks and then taking them away again. The traveling library is helpful after the reading habit has been developed, but is practically worthless as a means of developing the habit. He further claimed that the only way to develop the reading habit was to encourage the building up of home libraries. That this end could best be accomplished by giving opportunity for a careful examination of selected books and giving the opportunity for the purchase of any that met the needs of the person examining them. In order to confirm his belief, he placed in connection with the exhibits made by his department at county fairs a collection of some 75 or 80 books, affording opportunity for their leisure examination by anyone interested. The person in

charge of the exhibit was authorized to take orders for any book or books desired. Some 20 fairs were visited and the net results were the sale of approximately \$500 worth of books. Professor Christie claims that this work does not run counter to that of the library commission, but is the necessary antecedent to the successful operation of their plan as he understands it. I presume no one in the state has fuller knowledge of the conditions in rural communities in Indiana than Professor Christie; certainly no one has a more sympathetic interest in movements for rural betterment or is more energetic and persistent in their furtherance. His views are entitled to a weight far greater than any which I may personally advance. From this very striking divergence of views an important deduction may be drawn, namely, that the problem with which we are dealing is not a general one. We really have before us a series of special problems each of which must be solved in a special way. To put it in another form. Rural conditions are not homogeneous, but extremely heterogeneous, a fact absolutely precluding the adoption of a working plan of universal application. Plans instead of a plan must be devised and the selection of the one adopted must be determined in every instance by local conditions.

Another answer to the fundamental question suggested above took this form, "the awakening of the higher ideals of life." No one recognizes more fully the absolutely determinative power of ideals. No one sees more clearly the fact that the clear vision of some dominating ideal, which is at the same time compelling and alluring, always has and always must precede achievement and that this is true in every realm of life. But the question that forces itself to the fore is this: What is meant by higher ideals? The phrase sounds well, but really just what is meant? It is fairly clear that in by far the great majority of cases it means nothing more than the

acceptance of our ideals as the highest. This, too, in spite of the fact that these very ideals which we cherish so fondly, which so control our lives, may seem to others utterly unworthy. It is perhaps not to be questioned that proper reading greatly broadens the mental horizon, greatly increases the vision of possible fields of worthy achievement, but it must be remembered that it is only proper reading that so functions. When a careful study is made of the classified withdrawals of almost any public library, it is a fair question if the public library as it stands is an unmixed good. Ideals are so variant that the mere statement of this as the function of the library in rural betterment work is little more than a confession that the problem is not understood. The work of the library if it is to count at all must be along more concrete lines, must have far more definite boundaries than "the development of higher ideals of life."

These two answers are fairly representative of all received. These, as well as all of the others, evidence a sort of mental haziness so far at least as the end sought is concerned. Until this haziness is dispelled no very great progress can be hoped for.

*(Concluded next month.)*

### An Overdue Awakening

One who recently left library work for another field of usefulness writes of her surroundings as follows:

Shall try to find time Sunday to unearth the last number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES at the main library here, finding that it is not kept at the branch near my boarding place. The branch librarian, by the way, spends most of her time embroidering and has not seen the chief librarian for four years—*this* when there are five schools within a few blocks of the branch which is situated in one of the finest residence portions of this misguided city which believes it has an effective library system.

### The Farmer, His Book and Heart\*

Frances Hobart, Cambridge, Vt.

They *should* never part, but for some unknown reason they seem to have done so, for the librarian is troubled to get the farmer and his books together. We have discussed the rural problem a great deal; we have bought agricultural books; we have gotten Farmers' bulletins and leaflets from the experiment stations and departments of agriculture; we have tried nature study clubs and improving courses of reading; we have tried to beguile them and uplift them from their rough furrows of ignorance to our own smooth, shiny pavements of culture. But something is the trouble; some way he doesn't lift easily; sometimes it would seem as though we required a derrick, and even then the awkward fellow might slip on our glazed walk and slide back again.

We have tried to bring him up to our standard, to fit his heart to our book. Suppose, for a change, we try to discover what his heart really is and then adapt our books to it. If possible, go with a mind free from previous conceptions and study the man himself. There are many grades:

First—The man who owns his farm.

Second—The man who rents a farm.

Third—The man who works on a farm by the day or month, but neither owns nor rents.

Fourth—The man who lives in a rural community, and be he doctor, lawyer, merchant, blacksmith or livery man, he is likely to work at least a garden and may be own a cow, and as he associates largely with tillers of the soil, he comes to be like them and possesses their characteristics to a greater or less degree.

From an economic standpoint there is a wide difference between these classes, but it would be impossible to keep them in the same classes if they were graded intellectually. One would naturally suppose that the man owning the farm would be the superior, and certainly that the professional man of the fourth class would be superior, yet that does not al-

\*Read before the Agricultural libraries' round-table at A. L. A. Conference of 1910.

ways follow. I know a day laborer that reads the poets so much that he can finish, and continue for many lines, almost any quotation one may begin. The Rubaiyat he knows to the end. Not so very far from him lives the lawyer, who in court one day asserted that he was present when Jehu was tried for fast driving.

The man who rents the farm is quite likely to eventually own a farm himself, and the man who begins by the day or month is apt to change to the man who rents, and in the end the country doctor or lawyer, or even minister, also buys a farm as soon as he wishes to retire or gets prosperous. So our distinction of classes is quite lost and we must again depend upon a general similarity and a study of the individual.

It is never really quite safe to be sure just what these dwellers in the rural districts do know or don't know. Often they assume not to know things with which they are perfectly familiar just to amuse themselves at someone else's expense, for the man who toils has a sense of humor all his own. It may not coincide with your sense, but it is genuine, nevertheless. There is always a possibility that he may have a mind that knows and appreciates the best, and always it is safe to say that the average man in the country is a person of more thought and capability than the average man in the city, and at his worst the man with the hoe is slow to change. Slow to change, cautious and canny, he views new things with a suspicious eye, but if it seems likely to benefit him he does not utterly decline but considers the matter. The very occupation by which he gets his living has made him capable of reasoning and has taught him patience and perseverance and made him a philosopher. He must plough and harrow, plant and cultivate, reap and garner, before he sees the result of his toil. He must plan, he must contrive, he must invent and circumvent, to conquer the elements and gain his living. The more he is able to plan the better he is able to control the elemental forces of life. His work constantly increases his reasoning powers,

while the work of a millhand, of a clerk, or any wheel of a great machinery in a city existence constantly decreases the reasoning powers. Even the most stupid appearing rustic has powers of intuition and keenness of discernment of character that would surprise you.

You think Long John is a lout; he stumbles and blushes and acts clumsily generally; but wait—when you are away he smiles and winks knowingly; he takes off your pet expressions and apes your walk to the hired girl till she screams with laughter. He knows to a jot whether or not you are a pretty good fellow and can be trusted and have a real interest in him.

The last driver who took me out to a library confided to me: "Some of them city folks that ride with me make my ears ache talking about how beautiful 'tis all the time. I can hardly wait till I get out of the wagon. But then," he added, condescendingly, "there's just as much difference in city folks as there is in anybody else, and I can size them up by the time they've got into the wagon." Yet he was not insensible to the beauty of the landscape, for he drove out of his way to show me new views and was constantly calling my attention to stream and hill and the light through the trees.

It is a part of the farmer's nature that he assumes a humility he does not feel and disguises his emotions. The farmer is one of the most sentimental men in the world, but he would not have you know it. You should see the love letters he can write. Library men are the most *unsentimental*; they would not have you know that, either. When Farmer Jones really loves he shuns his divinity, lest he should shock her by his rudeness; likewise he scoffs at the appreciation of beauty that is loud and insistent, but he journeys back thousands of miles to the home of his boyhood that he may lift up his eyes unto the hills once more. He is apt to be a scoffer religiously, too; no matter what his denomination, he does not love religion as his forefathers did. Occasionally you will find a pious Deacon Brown, but for the most part he be-



lieves in works more than in doctrines. He is, as a rule, strangely lacking in artistic sense and usually prefers reality to representation. He is unhygienic in his habits, not sensitive to cruelty, and chivalrous only on impulse; never as a rule or duty. He is not a fighter; yet he is terrible in battle when aroused. I leave it for the reference librarian to name the various instances in history where the farmer soldier has wiped up the dust with his enemy.

The primitive man—that much abused expression—is strong in him, and so is the “Bowery element.” Rich or poor, old or young, you can never be certain that he will not surprise you. His dramatic possibilities are great, and there is seldom any limit to the possibilities of his development. Today you may see him grimy with toil, unshaven, plodding the fields with hobnailed shoes, battered hat and patched overalls. Tomorrow—literally—he may be hundreds of miles away in his motor car administering the affairs of state or nation, or maybe dipping his brown hand in stocks, and the day after he may be at home for milking, his frock smelling of the barn.

He can sing, he can pray, he can sneer, he can dance till broad daylight, he can make money and he can spend it, he can dissipate like a beast, or die like a saint. What are you going to do with him? Is this man of so various capabilities, so infinite in his variety, going to be lightly moved? Can you reach out the tips of your fingers and say, “My good fellow, let me improve your mind!” Assuredly you cannot. His force is elemental; in order to meet and master it you must have something more than mere book learning or a theory derived from this or that L. A. or school. First, you must *be* and not *seem*, for he sees through you; you must have power enough to be his equal in spirit before you can convince him. You must have common sense enough to realize the immutability of the value of *things*—just simple, everyday *things*. Then you can take your book in your hand and walk in the furrow with him, instead of attempting to

pull him up to your slippery, trestled way. You will find the farmer with a poet's heart and supply him with the rhythm and song he loves; you will find the good old saint and gladden his heart with accounts of his favorite missionaries and tales of moral worth; you will see that poor, feeble-minded Jake has easy boys' books to keep him company; that the old soldier gets all he wants about the battles he faced; that giddy Tom has harmless love stories; that Miser Means gets the books that tell him how to make one dollar do the work of two; that the man with a mortgage has a funny yarn to cheer him; that fat Mrs Breen has a beauty book and that all the farmers' wives have something to cheer and amuse and maybe instruct their odd moments, and all the farmers' children the necessary amount for a foundation in standard and classic literature and useful things.

Find out the need in their *hearts* and then supply the book accordingly, and there won't be any more trouble about the parting.

But the *agricultural* books—why, yes; have some of them, too; a few of the best ones—just as many as your patrons will read—but don't expect to use them for *bait*. What do you suppose old Farmer Slow cares about the opinion of the beardless boy who has just been graduated from one agricultural college to be professor in another, and writes so glibly of “technical abstracts” and the “synopsis of statistics” and the “biological survey” and the “chemistry of soils,” and so forth and so on? Quite possibly he never raised an acre of potatoes or ran a 40-cow farm in his life, and Farmer Slow knows it and treats his book with silent contempt accordingly.

Imagine yourself after a hard day's work in cataloging, reference or children's room—would you post off in great haste and glee to a library that offered you nothing but different editions of the Decimal classification, fancy copies of the Expansive, Cutter's rules, Simplified library school rules, and various other rules and bibliographies and catalogs? There is no need for an answer; I

*know*—you wouldn't. Such things are tools to be had for reference when necessary; but for recreation, rest, attraction—*never*.

Don't you suppose the farmer wants something besides his work to think of? Isn't he often so tired that he drops to sleep over his book? What does he want to know about "bee keeping" when he hasn't a hive, nor wouldn't have one on his farm? Why should he read about irrigation when his farm is covered with little streams? Why a treatise on the side-hill plow when he has a prairie before him? Does a doctor read nothing but books on anatomy, or would a lawyer be attracted to your library by copies of the revised statutes? Give the farmer books as you would other men; study him individually and supply his need. The very character of his work makes him a thinker if not a reader, and he may be both. No other occupation in life has furnished so many great men as farming. In all lands and times the great men have been farmers' boys. Do not try to take their birthright from them by keeping them all forever studying agriculture. It is but their school for development of strength and spirit. The cities and the state need them. The solitude and monotony of tasks on the farm foster great thoughts and aspirations and the long hours great endurance.

Give them your best, the best there is; do not limit their capabilities. Search "the ten classes into which all knowledge is divided by decimals" of Dewey for the best and give it to the farmer and his boy understandingly; then his "book and heart shall never part."

---

Lose this day loitering, 'twill be the same story  
Tomorrow, and the next more dilatory;  
The indecision brings its own delays,  
And days are lost lamenting over days.  
Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute  
What you can do, or dream you can, begin it.  
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.  
Only engage, and then the mind grows heated.  
Begin, and then the work will be completed.

—Goethe.

### Some Recent Poets of Note\*

Arthur Davison Ficke, Davenport, Ia.

My remarks about a few of the recent poets must be rather in the nature of a practical suggestion than a critical analysis. I shall only try to review the names of a half dozen of those modern writers of verse whose work seems of the largest promise and whose books may profitably be recalled to the attention of a meeting of librarians.

The first of the poets of whom I shall speak is one not quite to be classed among the immortals, yet of very high esteem—William Watson. For many years there have been coming from him volumes whose sustained dignity of manner and severe elevation of thought have given him a secure and honorable place among modern poets. None who ever read it will forget the opening stanzas of his elegy on the death of Tennyson:

Low, like another's, lies the laureled head:  
The life that seemed a perfect song is o'er:  
Carry the last great bard to his last bed.  
Land that he loved, thy noblest voice is mute.  
Land that he loved, that loved him; never-  
more  
Meadow of thine, smooth lawn or wild sea-  
shore,  
Gardens of odorous bloom and tremulous  
fruit,  
Or woodlands old, like Druid couches spread,  
The master's feet shall tread.  
Death's little rift hath rent the faultless lute,  
The singer of undying songs is dead.

The dignity, the seriousness, the noble poise of these lines is characteristic of Mr Watson's work. Not less characteristic is their reasoned calm—a calm which sometimes in his work makes him seem a little prosaic. One never feels that he loses himself in his singing; in fact, he can seldom be said to sing; all of his utterance is measured, careful, logical, sane. The poetic madness is unknown to him. I like to think of him as, on the whole, the most typical poet of the close of the Victorian era. Like the Victorian era, he is somewhat prosaic; like it, he is logical; like it, he refuses to engage in the chase of wild butterflies which, in a

\*Read before the joint meeting of Iowa and Illinois library associations, Davenport, October 13, 1910.



more intense nature such as Shelley's, lead to obvious pitfalls as well as to exalted heights. Mr Watson never falls into pits; neither does he ever reach the peaks; he always holds his even course along a straight, reasonable, charming road. Though he has not Shelley's passion, he has Tennyson's perfection of style and nobility of subject. As he very truly says of himself:

(I have) "dedicated to melodious ends  
All of myself that least ignoble was.  
For though of faulty and of erring walk,  
I have not suffered aught in me of frail  
To blur my song; I have not paid the world  
The evil and the insolent courtesy  
Of offering it my baseness for a gift."

Indeed, he has not; he has poured into his poetry only that part of himself which may worthily survive; and that is no small praise in this day, when poets of Nineveh and Babylon think no portion of their natures or their experience, however base or insignificant, to be undeserving of perpetuation in their work. William Watson is fortunately content to let the dust return to dust; his poetry shall preserve only the things of the spirit.

Characteristic also of our present day, but characteristic in a very different sense, is John Davidson, a poet in whom all the unrest and turmoil, all the discontent and upheaval of our time seem struggling for expression. He is a poet of revolt—of a revolt that has not as yet found its real voice. But it is because Mr Davidson has even attempted the great task of expressing the groping dissatisfactions and the unformulated hopes of modern society that he is especially interesting. His themes in his later work are curiously in contrast to those subjects—the skylark, the nightingale and the rose—by which many excellent people conceive the poet's world to be bounded. He leads us far away from amaranthine fields, into the rush of steam and steel, the press of London crowds, the din of railway stations, the heaven-shaking social and religious evolutions of today. For it is his desire to bring within the scope of poetry these things, too, which play so large and so disorganized a part in our conscious lives. For him they

must be given their place in any conception of the world; otherwise they blot out all else. "I cannot see," he writes,

I cannot see the stars and flowers,  
Nor hear the lark's soprano ring,  
Because a ruddy darkness lowers  
Forever, and the tempests sing.  
I see the strong coerce the weak,  
And labor overwrought rebel;  
I hear the useless treadmill creak,  
The prisoner cursing in his cell;  
I see the loafer-burnished wall;  
I hear the rotting match-girl whine;  
I see the unslept watchman fall;  
I hear the explosion in the mine.  
I see where from the slums may rise,  
Some unexpected dreadful dawn,  
The gleam of steeled and scowling eyes,  
A flash of women's faces wan!"

We, too, see these things; therefore it is well that poetry should extend its borders to include them; otherwise it draws down upon itself the charge of unreality, inadequacy; it becomes the refuge of dreamers; a mere flower garden, underserving of the attention of serious men. Poetry should be the noble expression of the ideals of the world. And when any element plays as large a part in our life as does our modern industrialism, it is the right and the duty of poetry to embrace that element and to bring home to us what ideals, or what lamentable lack of ideals, may be hidden therein. If John Davidson had succeeded in bringing into his verse those strange, new, perplexing forces of modern society, if he had been able to coördinate for us this vast discordant complex of industrialism which surrounds our lives, he would have been among the great poets of all time. For that would have been to picture to us our world, with the revealing light of imagination thrown upon it. But he was no Milton; he was a forerunner, a path-blazer only. In his work we shall find an intensely interesting hint of one direction poetry may take, must take, in the future; but we shall not find the completed achievement. Yet even such an attempt earns our attention. John Davidson is an unhappy and disturbing poet, the last one in the world to whom one would go for peace or consolation; but he is throbbing with the great movements of the hour and with the hope of

the final righting of many wrongs. William Watson may represent to us the calm, reasonable, reflective tendencies of our time; John Davidson, its smoldering gunpowder.

Outside of our time altogether, in a timeless region of pure spirit, stands the work of yet another recent poet, Francis Thompson. His writing is such as might have been produced by an Elizabethan familiar with the yet unborn solemnity of Milton and yet undreamed subtlety of Shelley. He is not a modern; he is an immortal. His chief theme, a mystical interpretation of the philosophy of the Roman church, is one that may not be in itself attractive to all of us; but questions of agreement or disagreement in faith fall away and are forgotten as one enters into the magnificence of conception and the power of expression which transfigures all this poet touches. The following lines form the beginning of one of his most impressive poems, in which he pictures Christ as the Hound of Heaven, pursuing with appalling, deliberate relentless the wanderer from the flock, and shutting to that wanderer all the doors of hope in order that he may be forced to seek refuge in the arms of the pursuer at last. We must be narrow indeed if we allow our personal differences of faith to prevent our appreciation of the majesty of the poetry:

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled Him, down the the arches of the years;  
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways  
Of my own mind: and in the mist of tears  
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.  
Up vistaed hopes I sped:  
And shot, precipitated  
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,  
From those strong Feet that followed, followed,  
after.  
But with unhurrying chase  
And unperturbed pace,  
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,  
They beat—and a Voice beat  
More instant than the Feet—  
"All things betray thee, who betrayest Me."

And then, after the long and vain flight, comes the end:

Now of that long pursuit  
Comes on at last the bruit;  
That voice is round me like a bursting sea:

"And is thy earth so marred,  
Shattered in shard on shard?  
Lo, all things fly thee, for thou fliest Me!  
Strange, piteous, futile thing,  
Wherefore should any set thee love apart?—  
Seeing none but I makes much of naught"  
(he said),

"And human love needs human meriting:  
How hast thou merited—  
Of all man's clotted clay the dingiest clot?  
Alack, thou knowest not  
How little worthy of any love thou art!  
Whom wilt thou find to love ignoble thee  
Save Me, save only Me?  
All which I took from thee I did but take  
Not for thy harms,  
But just that thou might'st seek it in My arms,  
All which thy child's mistake  
Fancies as lost, I have stored for thee at home.  
Rise, clasp My hand, and come!"

Halts by me that footfall:  
Is my gloom, after all,  
Shade of His hand, outstretched caressingly?  
"Ah, fondest, blindest, weakest,  
I am He Whom thou seekest!  
Thou dravest love from thee, who dravest  
Me."

In spite of the confusing superabundance of his imagery, the difficult subtlety of his conceptions and the sectarian appeal of many of his subjects, Francis Thompson is the one poet of our time whose works you can place on your shelves with the full confidence that no time will outlive him.

Turning from these Miltonic glooms and splendors and echoing cadences to the simple unadorned Doric stanzas of A. E. Housman, it may be that a sense of thinness and bareness will be our first impression. But it will not be our last. Though Mr Housman's lyrics are delicate and slender, it is not the slenderness of poverty, but more like that of a statue from about whose beautifully molded limbs great masses of encumbering material have been chiseled with the most perfect art. The following poem, of only eight lines, seems at first sight a somewhat insignificant thing; but if one examines it with attention one finds expressed in it, without one superfluous word, more of the real pathos of the death of young and beautiful things, more of the wistful regret for departed loveliness,

than is contained in many a page-long elegy:

With rue my heart is laden  
For golden friends I had,  
For many a rose-lipt maiden  
And many a lightfoot lad.

By brooks too broad for leaping  
The lightfoot boys are laid;  
The rose-lipt girls are sleeping  
In fields where roses fade.

Such is Mr. Housman's art: absolutely simple and unornamented, and perhaps for that reason less likely to catch the dust with which Time loves to shroud the too richly decorated works of aspiring artists.

The remaining names I must pass in very rapid review. There is William Butler Yeats, in whom the haunting beauty and melancholy of the Celtic poets finds its most perfect expression, and under whose touch the old Irish myths live again, clothed with the natural magic and the regret for things vanished which seems to be a Celtic heritage. There is Alfred Noyes, the promising author of "Drake: an English epic," who handles with vigor and virility the romance of the Spanish Main and the heroic days of England's great seafighters. Nor must we forget, standing out from the large and rather characterless mass of American poets, the forceful and penetrating psychology of Edwin Arlington Robinson, the symphonic power over words of Ridgely Torrence, and the cloistered poise of spirit which will give George Santayana a place in the history of American letters.

And in conclusion, I should like to venture one reminding word to this gathering of the directors of the libraries of the people. In this epoch, when the spell of commerce and material things hangs like a blight over our intellectual future—when religion is growing less powerful, and the things of the spirit are very little in the consciousness of the average man—when we are so occupied with rate regulation and Theodore Roosevelt and the capturing of manufacturing plants from our neighbors—in such an epoch there seems hardly any service more necessary of performance than the sustaining and culti-

vating of what inward light we have. By that light, in the end, must be tested the worth or worthlessness of all material achievement. Of that light, the poets, old and new, on your shelves, are the prophets. As you force them into the open, or as you allow them to sleep in their cases, will grow or fade that idealism, that vision, without which the people perish.

### Some Recent Books on Useful Arts for Boys and Girls\*

Mabel Bartelson, Minneapolis public library

An extended observation of the fundamental interests of child nature shows their tastes for reading move largely along certain lines, and at some period of their lives they are intensely practical. Books of invention and industry are read greedily for information on all sorts of subjects; the study of carpentry and electricity is in the ascendant for boys, while that of cooking and sewing attracts the girls. Their demand is for "something doing" and it is to find out how things should be done that books along this line of thought are in demand. The influence which this work exerts upon a child's taste and character should not be ignored; the best books should be furnished at a time when the reading will prove especially attractive to the practical and inquiring minds of these young people.

Under this head are a number of books of genuine interest and merit and it is the aim of this discussion to point out a few of those recently published. The eagerness with which they have been read attests to a popularity, which should bring to the youthful mind an ever-increasing range of interests.

For grownups there is the demand for books on what is going on in the world; so the preference of our boys is represented by the modern book on airships and the latest device for the motor. Harry Delacombe's "Boy's book of airships" presents itself most appropriately on a subject of timely interest and will fulfill for the wide-awake boy his wish to keep in touch with the development of fly-

\*Read before Minnesota library association, Fairmount, October 5, 1910.

ing-machines—with which history is being made every day. While not especially adapted to children's reading, this book will be very useful to older boys, including as it does descriptions of various types of balloons and a history of their development.

Apparently there is no line of activity which the boy at a certain period of his development wants to know more keenly than uses of electricity. "Harper's electricity book for boys" has now been supplemented by "How to understand electrical work" by W. H. Onken and J. B. Baker, furnishing another of the practical handy books issued in this Harper series. Explanations of electrical machinery and the uses of electricity are simply and clearly given, so that a practical, thoroughgoing, working knowledge of electricity can be obtained from this admirable book for boys.

In Edwin J. Houston's "Wonder book of magnetism" the author has made use of old fairy tales to enlighten his readers on some difficult points, which are ordinarily a part of the child's education. Scientific facts and principles are brought out with such clearness as to make them entertaining as well as instructive.

"The boys' book of steamships" by J. R. Howden covers new ground in the study of sailing-ships and contains a very valuable historical sketch of ancient and medieval shipping. For the boy interested in boats this is an especially profitable and informing book, covering the entire ground of the development of different types of river and lake boats and ocean steamships.

"The scientific American boy at school" by A. R. Bond is another useful volume of this series, in which there are practical suggestions for all manner of clever things for home and camp life. The book furnishes a year-around guide for the boy with a mechanical turn of mind.

Gardening has grown to be a practical study in the education of the child, and it is now quite generally conceded that psychological as well as practical and economic results are to be achieved through this attractive work for the child. Fran-

ces Duncan's "When mother lets us garden" and "Little gardens for boys and girls" by M. M. Higgins appeal especially to the needs of the youngest gardeners, dealing with the care of the simpler plants and flowers and furnishing information and the right ideas for simple garden-making—the most healthful kind of busy work for children. Henry G. Parson's "Children's gardens for pleasure, health and education" is divided into two parts—theory and practice. The first part gives the values of children's gardens in relieving poverty, sickness and inefficiency, and tells of the improvement easily acquired through the medium of the garden. Under practice instruction is given for each step of the work from preparing the soil through every detail in the care of plants.

A book which will find an immediate response as dealing with special interests for girls is "Harper's handy book for girls" by Anna P. Paret. It is a most interesting and helpful volume pertaining to a large number of subjects and forming a good working tool for girls who are interested in domestic arts. One section shows the young girl how many useful and attractive things may be made for the home, and gives directions for different lines of work in the arts and crafts, each of which is fully illustrated with pictures of tools, designs and finished work. Several chapters are devoted to the art of needle-work and millinery, with a very complete chapter on embroidery.

The Beards in their "Little folks' handy book" give clear directions accompanied by drawings in simple handicrafts for children. A new field is opened by using materials always at hand, such as spools, clothespins, twigs and newspapers, thus encouraging inventiveness and simplicity in play.

Mrs Virginia Ralston's "When mother lets us sew" is quite an ideal book of instruction for little girls, containing practical illustrations of the art of needle-work, with simple, easily understood descriptions of the various kinds of stitches needed in this fascinating work for girls.

Constance Johnson's "When mother

lets us cook" is another instructive book in this series. It contains simple recipes and directions which will prove useful to the little would-be housekeeper. Important cooking rules are given in clever jingles, which add to the attractiveness of the book.

We are on the eve of busy winter days and long evenings; and this class should be made very full with books that give pleasure and appeal to the love for handiwork in most boys and girls.

#### A. L. A. Committee on Binding

The A. L. A. committee on binding has asked the publishers of the forthcoming edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica to bind a number of sets for library use. Librarians throughout the country will materially aid the cause if, in sending orders for the work, they specify that they prefer sets specially bound according to the specifications of the committee on binding.

A. L. BAILEY, Chairman.

#### Book Numbers

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I am very anxious to know to what extent other libraries have found it unnecessary to put book numbers on the outside of the books. At present we are re-cataloguing and it will be a great saving of time and, of course, money to omit this part of the work, if it will not prove afterwards to be inconvenient. I know that some of the larger libraries have omitted the numbers from the beginning, but I should like to know what seems to be the general opinion. I shall greatly appreciate any communication in regard to this matter.

EDITH TOBITT, Librarian.

Public library, Omaha, Neb.

#### Help Wanted for a Library

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The people of McKinley, Isle of Pines, W. I., an American colony in a Cuban province, are trying to establish a library, and in spite of limited means and many discouragements have made a small beginning. My brother, William T. Woodman, manager of a growing business

there and generally interested in the prosperity of the place, has asked me to help the library by interesting others in contribution for them. Books, not new, which have passed their usefulness to the original owner, would be acceptable, and I think transportation charges met by the people.

I am sure any contribution would be well placed, much appreciated and gratefully received.

Will you give space in your periodical to present the cause to its readers?

SUSAN G. WOODMAN.

Manchester, N. H.

#### Rage for Killing

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Is there someone who would print the following quotation from the *Atlantic Monthly*, written by Charles M. Skinner, and would offer copies at a moderate price to be laid or pasted into books on hunting such as our public libraries buy?

This infamous rage for killing! The suffering that the men with guns impose; the happy creatures mangled in their play and flight; the crippled that drag themselves to the woods and hills to die, with unheard groaning; the little ones in fur and feathers that perish of cold and hunger, wondering why the father and mother that were good to them come back no more.

Oh, brothers of the tongue that speaks, the hand that works such other good, the brain that thinks so high and kindly for those of your own species, will you not hear and heed the plaint in these wild voices that reach you even at your windows? Will you not have mercy on those harmless ones that, after centuries of persecution, know and think of you only with aversion and terror? Hang up the gun, burn the whip, put down the sling, the bow, the trap, the stone, and bid them live. Let their joyous voices greet the sun again, as in the days before they learned the fear of man.

I should like to see it tried.

C. K. BOLTON.

Boston athenæum.

#### Unwarranted Use of Names.

Circulars have been sent out by a so-called Librarian's progressive league over the name of Ralph Ferguson, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco, stating that an "organization committee" had



been formed to advocate old-age pensions. As my name has been mentioned as chairman of the "organization committee," I wish to state that I know nothing of this league other than the information contained in the circulars, and that I have been unable to obtain any information as to the address of Ralph Ferguson, or the street address of the headquarters of the league.

In behalf of the other members of the "organization committee," I am requested to state that they also have no knowledge of the league other than given in the printed announcement. The names of all the members of the committee were used without their knowledge or consent. We wish to disown any connection whatsoever with the Librarians' progressive league and its pension scheme.

CHARLES H. BROWN.

Brooklyn public library.

### Put It Out

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I am writing to call attention to various numbers of *Life*. I suppose that numbers of libraries take *Life*, but a protest is certainly in order against such literature (?) as has been coming from their house the past year. We shall not have it in this library the coming year.

MARY E. WHEELOO, Librarian.

Public library, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

\* \* \* \* \*

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In the November number of the *Cosmopolitan* is the first instalment of a serial by R. W. Chambers. With the excuse that the November number is already out of print, the editor has had the pages of this instalment reprinted and mailed (how widely only he can tell) throughout the country. This first instalment of the story is a delicately insinuating but cold appeal to sexual interest and, unquestionably for this reason, it has been used in the novel and clever way mentioned to win and hold subscribers for the magazine.

When a magazine has descended to the adoption of such methods there can-

not be a shadow of doubt, in my opinion, as to the treatment it should receive from every public library, large and small, in the land.

So many numbers of the *Cosmopolitan* as continue to be received here we shall promptly destroy.

Very sincerely,

F. G. WILCOX, Librarian.

Public library, Holyoke, Mass.

### Educational Meetings in California

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Where is the much-talked-of friendly spirit between the N. E. A. and the A. L. A. in this year of 1911, when both of the organizations are holding their annual meetings in California with apparently as little regard to each other as if neither knew of the other's existence? As a member of both who is seldom able to attend the meetings of either, I wish to say publicly that I think a vote of censure is due the officers who seem to have been perfectly oblivious of the inherent relations existing between these two bodies. The situation is more aggravating than if the usual course of meeting on opposite sides of the continent were followed. One body holds its meeting in May before even the summer tourist rates are in force, and everybody who goes will pay full rates for so doing. The other meets in July, too late for any librarian to remain over for the meetings. It certainly looks as if there were an indifference, if one is not allowed to say hostility, toward the interests which many educators have in both organizations.

Now, really, isn't it time for these two bodies to get together? Is there actual necessity for two separate educational organizations in this common work? Is it too late to rearrange matters in regard to these California meetings? Why have two meeting places miles apart at widely different dates independently planned and carried out? Why? It is all most discouraging!

LIBRARY TEACHER.

## Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

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By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

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Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates

**Index for 1910**—The index for Vol. 15 of PUBLIC LIBRARIES was sent out in the December number. It is to be hoped that those who bind their periodicals will file this index carefully so that it may be found when wanted. It is not always possible to supply the index when it is called for, sometimes years after it has been issued.

**Meeting of A. L. A. for 1911**—The tentative outline of the itinerary of the librarians in connection with the meeting of the A. L. A. at Pasadena, Cal., next May is most attractive. The travel arrangements under Mr Faxon's supervision are sure to be all that can be desired. The program committee will undoubtedly profit by the record of the past along this line and there is every reason to hope at this time that the A. L. A. meeting of 1911 will be writ large, perhaps in red letters. There is a prospect of a good meeting and a good time in connection therewith on the occasion of the third A. L. A. meeting on the Pacific coast.

**Coöperation.**—Isn't there something more in the idea of coöperation than has been developed heretofore? When one sees a dozen or more libraries issuing lists on identical subjects, state library commissions publishing lists and tracts that, under another name, perhaps, but still the same things, are already in print, the A. L. A. publishing board spending meager funds in duplicating good material generally available, one can but wonder why the business scent that prevents such things in the commercial world does not penetrate the senses of those in the library world who are responsible for such crossing of lines. There is nothing to be gained by such duplicating beyond, perhaps, showing locally progressive effort, and it may be questioned whether the showing so made could not be made more effectively in other directions if the time and money used in the duplication were released and, backed by a little ingenuity or original thinking, were invested in library effort that no one else is offering at all.

When a farmer wants to plant his fields or gather his harvest he doesn't set out to make the machinery necessary. When the manufacturer wants a steam process or an automatic machine he doesn't put his time and capital into building the same. When a physician wants a remedy for a well-understood malady he doesn't hunt for a specific that shall bear his name. All these go out into the world, learn what has been provided for the purpose in mind, secure the best of them for their own use and put their energy and resources into getting the results which belong to their field.

Improvements in material and method



are bound to come in the processes of time, but there are certain things that can only be *shaped* differently, perhaps, by a difference in taste. Their component parts are not subject to change or improvement. The library doctrine uttered by the founders of the faith in America, Melvil Dewey, Justin Winsor, William F. Poole, has not been improved upon by any writers who have followed them, and change for change's sake only, means deterioration.

In the innumerable lists which are being printed by as many libraries, the material is identical in the most of them. Why not take the opportunity of using the same printing, with local imprints, acknowledging freely the use of business methods in so doing? The public library of Washington, D. C., of Louisville, Ky., and a few others advise through the professional journals, that the opportunity to secure their special lists is open to other libraries. Their example should be followed more widely than it is at present.

Sir Walter Scott's saying has practical application to library affairs as well as to many other lines: "If you have not a good reason for doing a thing, you have one good reason for letting it alone."

**The year in library circles**—The past year in library circles in America is not specially noted for any great event, but it also records an absence of any disturbing occurrence. Here and there, a few things unusual have occurred, but on the whole, the year may be counted as busy, happy and moderately successful.

The usual changes that time brings have affected localities, and for the most part have added new interest and new

vigor in the various communities where the changes have occurred.

The general average of library extension is growing higher year by year, and most of the large cities are coming to be effective centers for library enthusiasm and the instruments of library service are growing in power as well as numbers.

It is worthy of remark that the new people who have come more actively into the library ranks in the recent past have been distinct additions, and the advancement of the library spirit among the small library groups in every part of the country gives room for gratification to everyone who has the good of the cause at heart. Massachusetts has been particularly active in the past year in pointing out the place and power of its small libraries and giving personal assistance as never before, while still giving financial help as far as possible. Florida's library circle is growing in common with that of Alabama and of Louisiana. Arkansas has begun definite organization for library extension, while the Pacific coast is fast becoming a power unto itself in library work.

There can be no question but that library affairs in the Middle West are coming into their own, in a better appreciation of what they stand for on the part of the general public, and an intelligent coöperation on the part of municipalities in making them, indeed, "integral parts of education."

The training classes, established in Chicago and St Louis public libraries, promise a leavening influence on the internal conditions of these two large library centers and ease, for the time being at least, the pressure incident to a lack of funds with which to secure trained and

competent workers for the extension of library service.

Just how far the establishment of A. L. A. headquarters and its location in Chicago have had to do with the increased public attention and increased interest in the public library, is a question for which there is at present no very definite or comprehensive answer. That the office has made a place and demand for its work there is no question and no small part of it is due to the response made by Secretary Hadley to the calls for personal contributions from the librarians' meetings during the year.

The past year has been one of decided advancement in public library work in Canada. The Department of education of Ontario has given aid and interest to an unusual degree, and the library meetings in various localities have developed a highly creditable spirit of professional progress.

The International congresses at Brussels have been thoroughly discussed so recently that further comment at this time seems unnecessary. It might be in order, however, to protest, again, against the hasty and unconsidered permanent international organization voted last summer.

The British record in library progress is highly creditable, as shown by the printed reports of the various libraries and by those of the two principal library organizations.

With the beginning therefore of new work on a new volume in a new year, PUBLIC LIBRARIES has the hope that the year 1911 may see advancement along every line, and that throughout our common country, library workers of low and high degree may join with it in a feeling at the close of work well done.

**Viewpoints**—The value of the word depends upon the speaker's point of view. The contributions to PUBLIC LIBRARIES this month are unusually worth the attention of its readers. The subject of library extension in rural communities, so prominent before the library eye just now, is presented by two writers, each prepared by personal experience to judge and to speak knowingly. Dr Coulter, of Purdue university, has long occupied a leading position among university scientific men, and Miss Hobart of Vermont has perhaps come nearer to her rural constituents than any other commission worker. It is interesting to see how near these two writers come together in presenting their views.

Mr Ficke's paper, on "Some recent poets of note," is an essay of a kind too infrequently heard in library meetings, and will repay re-reading more than once.

The review of papers and proceedings of the various library meetings in different parts of the country show an intelligent grasp of library development that bids fair to produce creditable results in the work of the libraries.

#### American Library Association

The executive board of the A. L. A. has decided on May 18 as the opening day for the 1911 conference to be held at Pasadena, Cal.

CHALMERS HADLEY, Secretary.

#### American Library Association

##### (Suggested itinerary)

Saturday, May 13: Delegations from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Pittsburgh and way-stations leave for Chicago.

Sunday, May 14: In Chicago, all starting that night for Pasadena.

Monday, May 15: Kansas City, Emporia and Syracuse.

Tuesday, May 16: Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Gallup.

Wednesday, May 17: Grand Canyon of Arizona.

Thursday, May 18: Needles, Barstow and arrival at Pasadena.

A week will be allowed for A. L. A. meeting, with time during the week for side trips, such as Catalina Island, San Diego, etc.

Friday, May 26: Pasadena, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara.

Saturday, May 27: Santa Barbara mission and other local points.

Sunday, May 28: Del Monte.

Automobiles for the famous 17-mile ride, taking in Santa Cruz and the famous big trees. Arrive at San Jose in the evening and again take an automobile trip to Lick Observatory, if desired.

Monday, May 29: Leave San Jose; Palo Alto, visiting Leland Stanford University, arriving at San Francisco.

Monday, May 29—Wednesday, May 31: San Francisco.

Thursday, June 1: Leave San Francisco for Sacramento.

Friday, June 2: Travel.

Saturday, June 3: Salt Lake City.

Sunday, June 4: Daylight ride through the canon of the Colorado, Royal Gorge, etc. Colorado Springs, Manitou.

Monday, June 5—Tuesday, June 6: Colorado Springs.

Opportunity for side trips, Cheyenne, Garden of the Gods, Pike's Peak, Cripple Creek, etc.

Wednesday, June 7: Denver.

Thursday, June 8: En route through Nebraska and Iowa.

Friday, June 9: Chicago.

It is hoped that a sufficient number will decide to go to warrant a special Pullman train from Chicago, possibly from New York for the trip going. This would afford comfortable quarters en route, though many stops will be made at famous hotels.

There are several estimates under consideration. One is a 31-day trip from New York to New York, Pullmans all the way, including meals and everything except the week at Pasadena for \$270. Some side trips being omitted may decrease the cost. Some other estimates provided for coaches at certain points instead of Pullmans, which

will reduce the expenses from New York to New York to \$228. Adding the Yosemite trip would add \$35 or \$40. From Chicago to Chicago, the trip would cost about \$45 less. For those who wish to make the trip out, only, with the party and return any way they wish, there would be an additional cost of \$15, provided they go by the Northern routes.

Later notice will give definite arrangements but the plans are now sufficiently attractive to give an idea of the treat in store.

### Moving Pictures in Library Work

The Public library of Madison, Wis., is trying the experiment of moving pictures as an aid in making the library more fully an educational institution. Admission to the room is by ticket, distributed by teachers of the schools to the seventh and eighth grades of the public schools.

Miss Wilde, the children's librarian, on a recent date told in a simple manner the story of Launcelot and Elaine, explaining that this story, which was to be illustrated by the pictures and other stories of a similar nature, would be found at the loan desk of the institution.

The moving pictures then portrayed the leading scenes of the story, the scenery and costuming of the characters being in perfect accord with the spirit of the theme.

Miss Imhoff then outlined the story of Oliver Twist, giving a little account of Charles Dickens and his other interesting books, and then for about 20 minutes the story of Oliver Twist was retold by a moving-picture apparatus.

The stories were told simply, without any effort at dramatic art, with the single thought of interesting the children in the literature and the characters of the story chosen.

Secretary Dudgeon, of the Wisconsin library commission, is greatly interested in the outcome of the experiment, and should adequate results in interesting the children follow, the work will be extended to other libraries in the state.

### Library Meetings

**Alabama**—The seventh annual meeting of the Alabama library association was held on November 16-18 in Selma, Marion and Montevallo. The first two night sessions were held in the Carnegie library at Selma, while the day sessions on the seventeenth were held at the Judson college, Marion, and the day sessions on the eighteenth at the Alabama girls' industrial school at Montevallo. Most of the visitors had arrived in Selma Wednesday noon, in time to enjoy an automobile ride over the city and surrounding country. The meeting in the evening was opened by President Ernest Lamar, of the board of trustees of the library, who extended a cordial welcome to the members of the association. The president of the association, Dr Thomas M. Owen, presented the first speaker, Miss Smith, librarian of the University of Alabama, who responded for the association. Miss Hazeltine, preceptor of the Wisconsin library school, was the principal speaker of the evening, and made an address on "The library and its constituency." Miss Hazeltine defined the place the library should hold in a community and then presented in detail some of the methods by which it could come to hold this place. The address was heard with the keenest interest by the audience. An informal reception followed the program.

On Thursday the members were the guests of Judson college, Marion. They arrived in time for breakfast at the school. Two sessions were held here—a general session at which the students of both Judson college and the Marion seminary were present, in addition to the faculty and visitors from the town; a session for the librarians only, at which, however, the faculty and some advanced students were present. Dr George Petrie, head of the departments of Latin and history, delivered an address at the general session on "The librarian as a statesman." He showed the very vital force that the librarian, through the medium of the library, should be in the constructive life of a community and that

that librarian was a statesman just in so far as he became this force.\* Miss Hazeltine discussed the librarian's profession and the special opportunity it offered to women.

The next session was called in one of the club rooms in the library building. The general subject of discussion at this session was the college library, and it proved to be one of the most interesting of all the sessions. Miss Smith, of the University of Alabama, spoke on "The relation of the faculty to the college library." Miss Smith's discussion was confined almost entirely to the question as to whether the faculty should hold keys to the library. Extracts were read from about a dozen letters from the librarians of as many southern colleges, principally state universities, in answer to inquiries covering this point. The replies gave some very interesting sidelights on conditions in school libraries and the evidence seemed overwhelmingly against the practice of the faculty's holding keys and having the unlimited privilege of the library. This question produced a very lively discussion.

Miss Lancaster, of the State normal school, Jacksonville, presented a brief paper on the subject, "Instruction on the use of the library in normal schools," based on her own experience in her present position as librarian. The course as given covers about 30 hours and consists of lectures and practice work, the whole being based on Marjary L. Gilson's Course of study for normal school pupils on the use of a library. Miss A. Shivers, librarian of the Alabama polytechnic institute, spoke on "Scientific periodicals in technical schools," confining the discussion to their selection and use in the Alabama polytechnic institute at Auburn. The discussion of each of these topics was very general. Miss Hazeltine explained the general scheme of management of the University of Wisconsin library and the departmental libraries. She also spoke of her experience in giving instruction on how to use the library and emphasized its importance.

\*Dr. Petrie's address will appear later in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Immediately after lunch the visitors left in a driving rain for the station to return to Selma. Before leaving, each guest was presented with a facsimile of the first diploma issued by Judson college in 1841.

The feature of the second evening session, which was again held in the Selma library, was a book symposium. Those participating and the books discussed by each were as follows: Ora I. Smith, Stonewall Jackson and the American civil war, G. F. R. Henderson; Lucile Virden, The hunting of the snark, Lewis Carroll; Susan Lancaster, Ba-ba black sheep, Rudyard Kipling; Alice S. Wyman, Les Miserables, Victor Hugo; Tommie Dora Parker, Pride and prejudice, Jane Austen; Mary Emogene Hazeltine, The bluebird, Maurice Maeterlinck; Dr Thomas M. Owen, The literature of the South, Montrose J. Moses; Kate Jarvis, Letters of Sidney Lanier.

Special development in library work, reported by Miss Keith and Miss Virden, was the effort to extend the privilege of the library to all the people of the county. Talladega county has already appropriated \$200 as a beginning to help make this possible for the Talladega public library, and the Selma library hopes to get a similar appropriation from Dallas county.

Friday was spent at the Alabama girls' industrial school at Montevallo. A morning session was held in the library of the school and consisted of round-table discussions. Miss Virden was the leader in the discussion of the "Selection and use of periodicals in the small library." Magazine agencies, periodical indexes and the circulation of back numbers of magazines were included in the discussion. Miss Barker called attention to "Some recent library aids" that had been published, showing copies, giving price and place of purchase. Miss Wyman then gave a "Practical demonstration in the mending of books." The whole process was taken up from the preparation of the glue to the completed book. There were several other topics put down for discussion, but those who were to present them were

absent, and as time was limited, calls could not be made from the floor.

The president next made his annual address, giving a brief survey of library progress for the year in Alabama. At the conclusion of Dr Owen's address, Dr Thomas W. Palmer offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, By the Alabama library association, in its seventh annual meeting at Montevallo, Nov. 18, 1910, that the state legislature be most earnestly requested and urged to make such appropriations as will enable the Alabama state department of archives and history to enlarge and further develop the library extension work now being so well carried on under its direction.

*Resolved further*, That such additional support is imperatively demanded if the state is to fully meet its duty in this great field of educational effort, commensurate with the growth of our people in other directions and to keep abreast with the enlarged aspirations of sister states.

The afternoon meeting was held in the chapel of the school, where the members of the association and the faculty and students had the pleasure of hearing Dr Frederick D. Losey, professor of rhetoric and public speaking at the University of Alabama, on the subject of "Books in the home." Dr Losey emphasized the refining influence of books and the companionship that comes from close knowledge. At the conclusion of this address the association adjourned to meet in 1911 at Tuscaloosa in the University of Alabama. Miss Hazeltine remained at Montevallo, the guest of the school, until Saturday.

The following officers were elected: Thomas M. Owen, president; Charles C. Thach, first vice-president; Ora I. Smith, second vice-president; P. W. Hodges, third vice-president; Tommie Dora Barker, secretary; Laura M. Elmore, treasurer; and for the executive council in addition to officers: J. H. Phillips, Thomas W. Palmer, Frances Pickett, Susan Lancaster, Mrs F. A. Happer.

TOMMIE DORA BARKER, Sec'y.

**Chicago**—On Thursday, December 8, the members of the Chicago library club spent a delightful evening among book-



plates, under the leadership of Secretary Chalmers Hadley, of the American library association, who in a charming talk touched upon the history, use and design of book-plates, illustrating with examples from his own collection and Mr Legler's larger one; and later several hundred plates selected from these two collections and arranged on the book shelves in the assembly hall were examined at leisure.

Following the talk those present had the pleasure of informally welcoming back to Chicago and to the club, J. C. M. Hanson, associate director of the University of Chicago libraries, who became a member of the club at the beginning of its first year.

The attendance of 100 was unusually large for a December meeting.

Sixteen new members were received and the resignations of two accepted.

JESSIE M. WOODFORD, Sec'y.

**Colorado**—The annual meeting of the Colorado library association was held at Denver, November 21 in connection with the Colorado teachers' association. The meeting at the high school in the morning was well attended by teachers as well as librarians and was in every way a most successful and pleasant session. There was a gratifying number of librarians from out of town in attendance and every one evinced a keen interest in the two excellent papers, and the topics of the round table were well discussed.

A reception was given at the public library in the afternoon and in the evening a most enjoyable informal dinner was given by the public library to a company of 28 librarians, who were entertained by stories as told at the children's story hour by Miss Hillkowitz and Miss Jerome of the Public library of Denver.

#### Program

Some phases of children's library work, Anna Hillkowitz, Public library of Denver.

The interdependence of libraries and schools, Alfred E. Whitaker, former librarian of State university.

Round table: Affiliation of State library associations with the American library association.

Traveling libraries for country schools.

Inter-library loans.

Bibliography of Coloradoana.

HERBERT E. RICHIE, Sec'y.

**District of Columbia**—The November meeting of the association was held on the 9th of the month at the Public library. The president called attention to the resignation of J. C. M. Hanson as chief of the catalog division of the Library of Congress, and spoke warmly of the excellent and praiseworthy work he had done. The speaker of the evening was Ruth Putnam, author of "William the silent," etc., who addressed the association on "A reader's experiences here and there." Miss Putnam described her adventures with foreign librarians and recounted the difficulties she had met in European libraries. The libraries of Holland she found the most accessible and the most liberal in policy, but the Royal library has the defects of its qualities inasmuch as a loan of a collection of books on some one subject to a scholar in Lemberg leaves the shelves at the Hague bare for the next comer working in the same line. In the British museum there is also a liberal spirit, whereas the libraries of Paris offer the greatest difficulties. These difficulties come chiefly from the arrangement of catalogs in small sections, the seeming unwillingness of the attendants to assist the reader and the scarcity of seats. The speaker advocated the employment of an interpreter to help the reader with the modern, highly classified catalog, which, she said, the ordinary reader found hard to understand.

MILTENBERGER N. SMULL, Sec'y.

**Indiana**—The nineteenth annual meeting of the Indiana library association was held at South Bend, October 19-21.

The meeting opened with a cordial word of welcome by President Weidler of the South Bend library board, after which the president of the association, W. M. Hepburn, gave an address setting forth the conditions and needs of the association, urging that a "clear note of activities" be defined, followed by the co-operation of all hearts and hands in

the accomplishment of the work outlined.

Miss Browning and Mr Brown gave interesting reports of the Brussels and Exeter library meetings. Mr Brown stated that a great mistake at the Brussels meeting was the lack of printed resumes, in the different languages, of the papers to be given. Library training was approved, also an international code of cataloging and the exchange of duplicates between state libraries. Miss Browning reported more especially on the Exeter meeting. She gave an interesting description of her trip through the harbor at Plymouth.

The association was especially fortunate in having with them two other persons, Miss Ahern and Miss Lyman, who attended these meetings, and who responded to the invitation to tell something of their impression of them. Miss Ahern emphasized the point of the freedom and frankness of discussion, and the fact that the thing, not the person, was criticized. No personality entered into the discussion. Miss Lyman's special message brought to the American librarians greetings from Dr Palmgren of Sweden.

An interesting subject was Libraries of northern Indiana, presented by Louis J. Bailey of Gary. Believing that this subject could best be presented by an exhibit of plans and exterior and interior views of the libraries, Mr Bailey wrote to the librarians of 25 libraries in northern Indiana asking for information concerning the library and for any pictures or plans which could be contributed for the exhibit. Most of the public libraries responded with brief reports as to number of volumes, circulation, etc., and pictures and plans. These were mounted on poster board and artistically displayed at the meeting. The exhibit proved to be an excellent method of bringing before the association the work being done by the different libraries in the section in which it was meeting.

The subject of Special libraries was

presented by John A. Lapp and Elizabeth Abbott. Mr Lapp's address may be summed up as follows: The whole movement of special libraries is a new one. There has been a development from the library as a place of preservation to the special library. It gives special information. It begins where the public library leaves off. What is a special library? Not a law library, not merely a bureau of information, not merely a department of a large public library. It is all of these things in charge of people trained in library methods and in the things with which they have to deal. The special library is a supplement to the public library. It is a reference center. There are four classes of special libraries:

- 1) Editorial library, which is the simplest type.
- 2) The library as an adjunct of business.
- 3) The industrial library.
- 4) Legislative reference and municipal reference department library.

Being especially interested in the fourth class of special libraries, Mr Lapp dwelt at length upon the work of the legislative reference library, stating that while its chief mission is to serve as a reference center for the legislators, anyone in the state should feel free to ask for information.

The association was fortunate in being able to visit the Studebaker library, which is an example of the library as an adjunct of business, and still more fortunate to hear from its organizer and librarian, Miss Abbott, about the library and its work.\*

One session was devoted to the affairs of the association, at which time the report of the committee on cooperation between the I. L. A. and the Public library commission was heard. This report recommended the districting of the state into 10 districts, each to have a district secretary, whose business it shall be to keep the commission informed as to the library conditions in that district

\*See PUBLIC LIBRARIES, December, 1910.



and to make an annual report to the committee, which in turn shall render an annual report at the annual meeting of the association. As many meetings as desired shall be held in the districts during the year. The meetings shall be informal, with no set program, and one meeting each year shall be attended by a representative of the library commission. Two other important recommendations were increased annual appropriation for the work of the Public library commission and funds for the erection of a State library building. The entire report, with a few minor changes, was adopted by the association.

The election of officers resulted in the following: President, Eliza G. Browning; vice-president, John A. Lapp; secretary, Orpha Maud Peters; treasurer, Jennie Scott.

An interesting book symposium was conducted by Eunice D. Henley.

The Thursday evening meeting was devoted to the subject of rural work. Secretary Carl H. Milam pointed out wherein the township library controlled by a central department, the Reading circle and the traveling libraries are each in themselves inadequate to satisfy the rural demand and explained why library extension into the township from the city or town seems at present to be the best method of reaching the rural people. Mr Milam urged that librarians need "to know what we seek; to interest ourselves in township extension as the best means yet offered of further developing and extending library work; to realize that the cost of maintaining the new system should be borne equally by all those sharing in its benefits; and that the service must be made as good in the country as it is in town."

Following this address was a most excellent paper by Dr Stanley Coulter of Purdue university, on the Rural community and the library. Dr. Coulter spoke from the standpoint of the farmer, recognizing that the initiative should come from the rural community and that in working out the problem of the

relation between the rural people and the library, the factors of country life must be considered. Among these are the isolation, which although diminished in recent years by the telephone, automobile, electric traction, etc., has not entirely disappeared; the fatigue incident to long hours; uniformity of occupation and interest; individualism. In spite of this, the country dwellers "show tremendous intellectual virility and independence of thought." The extension of library work into the township was approved and a careful and scientific study of the conditions mentioned and of the literature suitable for the use of the rural community was recommended.\*

So much interest was manifested in the township extension work that, after the close of the general session, an impromptu round table, participated in by about 20 members, was held at the Oliver hotel, the headquarters of the association.

Not the least part of the success of the meeting was due to the social features which were in charge of the local committee consisting of Miss Tutt, librarian of the Public library; Miss Abbott, librarian of the Studebaker library; Florence M. Espy of the University of Notre Dame library, and Mr G. Baker, librarian of the Historical society.

The first of these social events on Wednesday evening brought together a large number of the city people and the visiting librarians, who were entertained with music by a string quartet, violin solos by Master Jan Szulzewski and vocal solos by Ernest G. Hesser of Goshen. In addition to the music, a reading from Shakespeare's *Midsummer night's dream* was particularly well rendered by Mr Kachel of South Bend. Edna Lyman, story-teller, lecturer, and author of the recently published book, *Storytelling: What to tell and how to tell it*, delighted the audience with her excellent stories.

Thursday afternoon the association

\*This address is published serially, beginning with this issue, in **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**.

was entertained by the Studebaker Bros. Manufacturing Co., beginning with a luncheon in the dining room of the administration building, the features of which were the delightful little menus in the form of booklets, the courses being represented by the titles of books; the welcome by J. M. Studebaker, Sr.; the description of the formation of the Studebaker library by Scott Brown, and the account of the library by Miss Abbott. This was followed by an automobile ride to Notre Dame and St Mary's.

The resolutions adopted at the last session could only inadequately express the enjoyment of these courtesies by the visiting librarians and the appreciation of the efforts put forth by the local committee on behalf of the association.

ORPHA M. PETERS, Secy.

**Maine**—The sixteenth meeting of the Maine library association was held Nov. 18, 1910, at Bates college library, Lewiston. Vice-president Hartshorn in the chair. About 35 were in attendance at the two sessions held in the morning and afternoon. The Maine library commission was represented by Dr William H. Hartshorn, of Bates college; Mrs. Kate C. Estabrooke, of Orono, and Mrs. Lizzie Jewett-Butler, of Mechanic Falls.

The following subjects were discussed in round-table conferences: Charging systems for small libraries; branch libraries, especially among mill operatives; disposal of books in houses where there are infectious diseases; imposing fines for unnecessarily soiling books; binding in buckram; call numbers in white ink on backs of books; discipline; and hours of opening.

Prof. George T. Little, librarian of Bowdoin college, presented a tribute in memory of Prof. Edward Winslow Hall, LL. D., late librarian of Colby college; and on the motion of Prof. Little the following resolutions were adopted:

"The Maine library association, at this its first meeting since the death of its former president, Prof. Edward W. Hall, LL. D., desires to place on record its

grateful appreciation of his life work. For over a generation he has been to the people of this state the exemplar of a learned and loyal librarian. By his counsel, by his experience, by his kindly sympathy, he has directly or indirectly aided every library here represented. His zeal, his ability and his fidelity to the special trust laid upon him have brought honor and good repute to all who follow his calling. And to those bound to him by family ties this brief expression of esteem for him and of sincere sorrow for them is most respectfully rendered."

The recent meeting of the New England college librarians was spoken of by Prof. Little and Ralph K. Jones, librarian of the University of Maine.

At the business meeting the following officers were elected:

President, Prof. William H. Hartshorn, Litt. D., Bates college; vice-presidents, John H. Winchester, Corinna public library, and Mary H. Caswell, Waterville public library; secretary, Gerald G. Wilder, Bowdoin college library; treasurer, Alice C. Furbish, Portland public library.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$60.52.

GERALD G. WILDER, Sec'y.

**Pennsylvania**—The first meeting for the season of the Pennsylvania library club was held on Monday evening, Dec. 12, 1910, at the H. Josephine Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia. The meeting was called to order by the president, Mr Hedley, who introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr Cyrus Adler, president of Dropsie college for Hebrew and cognate learning, Philadelphia, who in a half-hour talk gave the club some very valuable information about the work being done by the college. It was very interesting to learn that the first Hebrew Bible printed here was from types of the famous firm of Binney & Robinson; also the first English translation of the Bible made by a Jewish scholar was made by Leiser in Philadelphia. Dr Adler assumed, and very rightly too, that we are asked many questions relating to the Bible and Jew-

ish history, and he said that while there is not much literature on the subject in English, the Jewish Encyclopædia covers in a very fair way Jewish literature, history, etc., so that anyone can hardly fail to answer intelligently questions relating to the Jewish people, the encyclopedia is fairly accurate, and contains a good bibliography. A very excellent "History of the Jews," by Graetz (another good help), was published in Philadelphia.

A special society devoted to the history of the Jews in America has collected a great deal of material on the subject. Dr Kayserling of Vienna and Henry F. Morais of Philadelphia have also contributed several publications. Dr Adler spoke at length of the two Jewish colleges in Philadelphia, the Graetz college, the work of which is conducted on much the same lines as the public schools, being a school of practical work. There has recently been established in Philadelphia a college for the advancement of Jewish learning covering biblical and rabbinical subjects, also allied subjects in Syrian, Arabic and the cognate languages. The *Jewish Quarterly Review*, formerly published in London, having been taken over by the college, is now published in Philadelphia.

Another book which Dr Adler recommended highly is a dictionary of Mohammedanism, "Hughes' Dictionary of Islam," as there are about a million and a half Mohammedans in the Philippine islands. It is a book of interest.

After Dr Adler's very interesting and able address the meeting adjourned to the art gallery, where a delightful and informal reception was held and an opportunity given the members to meet Dr Adler.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN, Sec'y.

**Pennsylvania**—The tenth annual meeting of the Keystone State library association was held at Delaware Water Gap, September 30 and October 1, 1910.

The first session was called to order by the president of the association, Henry F. Marx of the Easton public library, who in discussing, Advertising

the library, spoke of the emphasis placed today upon efforts made to find a book for every reader.

William H. Allen, director of the Bureau of Municipal Research, New York City, followed with a very practical address upon interesting the public in library needs and library finance. He emphasized the need of advertising from the standpoint of the work done by cards and by newspaper items. He advised having classified information on public questions available for immediate use, and urged the study by librarians of methods used in modern social work.

Miss Stranze of the Carnegie library of Pittsburg read an interesting paper on Advertising methods used by libraries. Among her suggestions were, the use of newspapers, public posters, notices in school and technical papers, annotated bulletins, free lists on special subjects and exhibits. She recommended moving picture films of library activities, and dramatization of good novels.

About five minute talks by Miss Davis of Chester, Miss Pennypacker of Phoenixville, and Miss Skeele of Lancaster, on How we advertise our libraries, followed.

The afternoon session was a conference of librarians of colleges, normal schools and public schools for the purpose of organizing an educational section of the Keystone State library association. In the general discussion, the need of such an organization was considered and a committee appointed to draw up plans for a future method of procedure.

The evening session was presided over by Mr Thomson of Philadelphia, the Honorary president of the association, who introduced the subject of the session, The workingman and the library.

W. D. Bliss of the American institute of social service gave a very helpful address upon, What the library can do for the workingman. The methods of approach must be through the children and by appealing to the man himself

through his idealistic and socialistic sympathies. W. F. Stevens of Homestead told of the use of the Homestead library by the workingman, showing the value of the work of the athletic clubs, night school, gymnasium, billiard room, natorium, orchestra, study clubs and lecture courses. What our libraries are doing for the workingman, was taken up by Miss Carver of Sharon, Miss Parsons of Canton, Miss Sherman of Bradford, Mr Thomson of Williamsport, and Miss Weiss of Warren.

The Saturday morning session, called to order by Mr Marx, received the report of the nominating committee of officers for the ensuing year, which was read and accepted. President Robt. P. Bliss, Harrisburg; vice-president, E. W. Runkle, State college; secretary, Marian S. Skeele, Lancaster; treasurer, O. R. H. Thomson, Williamsport.

Peter Roberts, secretary of the International committee of the Y. M. C. A., addressed the session upon, What the libraries can do to aid the foreign speaking in America. He recommended cultivating a sense of justice toward him, bringing literature to him in his own language, creating a literature in his tongue, which shall expound American ideals, interesting his children, and making him feel a personal interest.

Miss Howard of the Wylie avenue branch, Pittsburg, told of the work done there for the foreigner, which was followed by a discussion on local work by Miss Rathbone of Wilkes-Barre, Mr Stevens of Homestead, and Mr Wright of Duquesne.

After an address by R. P. Bliss of the Pennsylvania free library commission, upon the new school code and its effect upon Pennsylvania libraries, announcements were made of a trip to be taken through the picturesque scenery of the Delaware Water Gap, and the session was adjourned. MARION S. SKEELE.

**Rhode Island**—The Rhode Island library association held a winter meeting at Brown university, Nov. 28-29, 1910,

with the librarian and staff of the John Hay library acting as hosts. In honor of the recent dedication of this new library, all the associations of southern New England were invited to share in the sessions.

The conference opened Monday evening with a meeting in Manning hall at 8:15. Mr Brigham, as president, welcomed the members and all visiting delegates. He then introduced Dean Meiklejohn, who spoke most pleasantly and cordially for the university.

Following him Mr Koopman reviewed briefly and described somewhat in detail the plans of the building. He called the attention of those present particularly to the system of indirect lighting, an experiment in which his library is a pioneer among our eastern libraries.

The chief address of the evening was given by Prof. Charles M. Lamprey, of the department of education in the Boston normal school, on "Developing the reading habit in children." Mr Lamprey has devoted much time and attention to this special subject and gave a most interesting and instructive talk, taking the question up from the viewpoint of the school and the home. He gave several most valuable suggestions which seemed extremely practical for librarians to follow. Mrs Mary E. S. Root, of the Providence public library, discussed Mr Lamprey's paper. She cited several striking illustrations of the reading done by children, choosing for examples those who had come to her attention in her own library.

After a few brief notices given by the president, the company on adjourning repaired to the John Carter Brown library, where a pleasant informal reception was given to the visiting delegates.

The sessions on Tuesday were somewhat interfered with because of stormy weather, but the attendance was good. The morning was given up to the inspection of the John Hay library ("the most complete and satisfactory library yet built") and to visiting the various points of interest in Providence near the college.

The conference was called together at 2 p. m. The question for discussion was

"The inter-relationship of the libraries in the community." William E. Foster, of the Providence public library, gave the first paper, an introduction to the question. Clarence W. Ayer, of the Cambridge public library, spoke from the "Public libraries' point of view," emphasizing the inter-library loan system. William I. Fletcher, of the Amherst college library, looking at the matter from the "College library's point of view," suggested the use of the college as a *reference* library, leaving the public library free as a *lending* library to the college and the community.

Willis K. Stetson, of the Free public library, New Haven, in his remarks on "The college library and the community," discussed the papers given by Mr Fletcher and Mr Jewett at the Mackinac conference.

The meeting adjourned with a vote of thanks to the college for its hospitality and to the speakers for their kindness in coming.

ELEANOR STARK, Sec'y.

**South Dakota**—The annual meeting of the South Dakota library association was held at Huron in connection with the State educational association, November 1 and 2.

Owing to an unavoidable and sudden change in the place set for the meeting the attendance was not so large as last year.

The chief topic for consideration was the proposed bill for a state library commission, which will be presented to the legislature at its next session. Doane Robinson, secretary of the State historical society, had the framing of this bill in charge, and it was approved by the association after a few changes were made.

The president of the association, William H. Powers, who is librarian at the State agricultural college at Brookings, made the A. L. A. meeting at Mackinac the subject of his annual address, which was much enjoyed by his hearers.

Other topics discussed were: "The librarian's professional reading," "Help-

ing the literary clubs," "Helping the schools," "Open shelves," and "Book selection and buying."

Prof. Powers was elected to succeed himself as president of the association; Edla Laurson, of the Carnegie library at Mitchell, was re-elected vice-president, and Mrs Maud Russell Carter, of the Carnegie library at Pierre, was elected secretary-treasurer.

The next annual meeting will be held at Pierre in November, 1911.

A pleasant social feature of the gathering was the serving of afternoon tea by Mrs Coshun and Miss McIntyre at the pretty new Carnegie library building. Mrs Coshun is librarian there, and Miss McIntyre manages the library at Huron college, where most of the sessions were held.

MAUD RUSSELL CARTER, Secy.

**Virginia**—The library association of Virginia held its regular annual meeting in connection with the Virginia educational conference in Richmond, November 25, 1910.

The first meeting was held in the auditorium of John Marshall high school and was by far the most enthusiastic session in the history of the association. The auditorium was well filled and the interest in the subjects discussed was evident. Ex-Governor Andrew Jackson Montague presided, and, in introducing the first speaker of the morning, said that he hoped legislative action could be secured, through enlightened public sentiment, to aid the association in its work. He remarked also that he had had the honor of seeing the establishment of the traveling libraries through a recommendation made by him to the legislature. State superintendent of public instruction, J. D. Eggleston, Jr., praised the good work of the traveling libraries, and showed the importance of the traveling library preceding the permanent library. He expressed the desire that a library organizer be secured at the next meeting of the legislature. W. M. Black of Lynchburg, president of the association, declared



that the next great step in educational progress in Virginia is the extension of the library. The state is progressing rapidly along this line, as can be seen from the traveling library movement, legislative reference work, and so on. He advocated enlarging the powers of the State library board so as to include a library organizer under its jurisdiction. Dr J. C. Metcalf of Richmond college put the public library on an equal basis with all other departments of education. Mayor D. C. Richardson of Richmond closed the session with a few encouraging words to the workers for better library conditions.

The second and closing meeting of the association was held in the Virginia state library in the afternoon and was chiefly a business session. A resolution was passed asking the *Times Dispatch* to devote some of its space once a month to the work of the library movement in Virginia. The State library force was asked to contribute the material for publication, provided the space could be secured. It was also decided to ask for a column in the *Virginia Journal of Education*, and further to seek space in papers throughout the state. In his annual report, President Black advocated the creation of a library commission or the enlarging of the State library board's power, so that it might employ an organizer.\*

The following officers were elected to serve for the coming year: President, W. M. Black, Lynchburg; vice-president, Dr J. C. Metcalf, Richmond college; secretary, G. Carrington Moseley; treasurer, W. F. Lewis, both of the Virginia state library. The executive committee was appointed as follows: E. G. Swem of Richmond; J. E. Perkinson of Danville; a member of the Norfolk public library staff, together with the four officers of the association.

GEORGE CARRINGTON MOSELEY,  
Secretary.

\*President Black's address will be given in full, later, in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

**Wisconsin**—The Wisconsin state library association will hold its annual meeting in the children's room of the Milwaukee public library on Washington's birthday and the day following.

This meeting is to be of especial interest as it is the twentieth annual meeting of the association. The meetings are to be an afternoon session on the twenty-second, devoted to Civics, led by Mrs Anna Garland Spencer. The Milwaukee library club have invited the association to a banquet at the Normal school. Toasts on the "History of the association" will be given. Miss Van Valkenburg will be the toastmistress. A special speaker will speak in the evening.

The morning of the twenty-third the subject of the meeting will be "New aspects in library work."

A number of people prominent in the library world will take part in the program.

GABRIELLA ACKLEY, Sec'y.

### Biographical Help Wanted

A biography of Mrs Julia Ward Howe is in publication by her daughters, Mrs Laura F. Richards and Mrs Maud Howe Elliott. In order that nothing may be lost from the record of Mrs Howe's activities, the authors request the loan of letters and characteristic notes that may be useful for the purposes of the biography. Communications may be addressed to Mrs Laura F. Richards, Gardiner, Me. All material will be promptly copied and returned to the owners. The authors will also be grateful for any personal anecdotes or reminiscences of Mrs Howe.

### His Last Subject

Full sixty years, 'mid books and books,  
His earnest, useful days he'd passed.  
His home, his loved ones, they were gone.  
His time for rest drew near at last.  
Came night, before the index desk  
He sat and bowed his wearied head:  
"Thy help, kind God. This subject—'Home—  
Where is it?" So they found him dead.

### The Passing of Two Friends of Libraries

Late in November, Senator James H. Stout of Menomonie, Wis., died, ending a life of great usefulness, devoted to the larger educational movements of his state and to the country in general. Early in December Judge James Madison Pereles passed away in Milwaukee, terminating a no less devoted career in the advancement of educational movements. Both men were so thoroughly identified with the strong library work of Wisconsin and had given so much of stimulus and strength not only to the library work in their immediate localities but as well to the larger forces affecting the entire state and beyond, that the loss is well nigh irreparable.

Nearly a quarter century ago, when in the Middle West there were but the feeble beginnings of library interest apparent, Senator Stout gave his hearty support and sympathy and ungrudging effort in promotion of the splendid pioneer work, undertaken in such disinterested and unselfish fashion by men like Frank A. Hutchins, and made possible by reason of his influence and financial assistance, what might otherwise have languished and proven impossible of realization. From his private purse he furnished the money needful to purchase nearly 40 traveling libraries to be circulated in Dunn county. His example inspired like beneficence in two adjoining districts and fortified the movement for state support of a system of traveling libraries now penetrating to the remotest borders of that commonwealth. He personally defrayed the expense involved in establishing the first summer school for librarians held in Madison, and since continued annually at the expense of the Library commission. His personal participation in many of the library meetings gave added impetus and inspiration to the cause, and his support of needed legislation during his long membership in the State Senate practically assured the passage of needed laws to foster those interests.

Senator Stout also was sponsor for the remarkable group of educational activities which center at Menomonie and which engaged much of his time and thought and to which he contributed liberally in money from time to time. It was, however, more particularly by reason of his interest in the library movement that Senator Stout became known from one end of the country to the other. He was the first chairman of the Wisconsin free library commission, ill health causing his retirement after many years of service in 1905.

Judge Pereles, at the time of his death, was president of the Board of trustees of the Milwaukee public library and chairman of the Wisconsin free library commission. He had served continuously in the former position for 18 years and in the latter since the retirement of Senator Stout in 1905. Always interested in all matters of education, his first active interest in library work resulted from his membership in the Milwaukee library board, ex officio, as president of the Milwaukee school board 18 years ago. Upon his retirement from the school board, he was unanimously chosen a member of the library board and became its president almost immediately thereafter, his annual reelection occurring without a break from that time on. With like unanimity he was elected chairman of the Wisconsin free library commission upon his appointment by Governor La Follette in 1905 and was chosen to succeed himself regularly at each succeeding annual meeting. A man of generous impulses, of most kindly disposition, of eagerness to serve where he could render service, unobtrusive in his numerous benefactions, Judge Pereles could always be relied upon by those with whom he was associated in this work. For many years in conjunction with his brother, Hon. Thomas Jefferson Pereles, he defrayed the expense incident to the purchase of text books for all the indigent pupils in the Milwaukee public schools. He gave frequent and generous gifts to the Milwaukee public library and the Wisconsin free library commission also shared from time to time in the



philanthropic kindnesses which he delighted to dispense. He annually provided the means for printing a book in the Moon type characters for the blind in Milwaukee, and gave an annual fund for the purchase of books for the blind in Milwaukee and in other parts of the state. For several years past he provided two scholarships for the Wisconsin library school, placing them at the disposal of the executive officer of that organization.

These were rare men, and they will be missed.

HENRY E. LEGLER.

### Interesting Things in Print

A new and enlarged edition of "References on reciprocity" has been issued by the Library of Congress, under the direction of H. H. B. Meyer.

The process of building an experiment station library is plainly set out in the opening article of the *Experiment Station Record* for November, 1910, issued by the Department of agriculture at Washington.

A new feature of the monthly bulletin of the St Louis public library is a list of books that are personal favorites of the contributors who have each written annotations of their particular favorites, under the caption, "Books I like, and why I like them."

A pamphlet on government documents in small libraries, by Charles W. Reeder, of Ohio state university library, has been reprinted as a separate Bulletin from Ohio state library. The subject is one which appeals to most librarians of small libraries, and for them the pamphlet contains many valuable suggestions.

The Public library of Evanston, Ill., is coöperating with the Drama league of America, headquarters of which are in Evanston, in bringing to the attention of the public the dramatic literature on the shelves of the library. A recent list of plays and books on the drama has been issued.

The Hon. John McSweeney, a prominent member of the bar of Worcester,

Ohio, and a member of the Ohio library commission, has instituted a five-inch library, following the idea of Dr Eliot. He has worked out the plans slowly and very carefully. No books in full are taken, but choice paragraphs from the best of literature are included, which he calls "Teasers." "A man won't read a book that requires thought after he is 40 years of age, unless his mind is teased," is Mr McSweeney's thought.

Part 5 of "Modern library economy, as illustrated by the Newark public library," dealing with the school department, treats of picture collections, material for which is furnished by J. C. Dana.

The use of pictures has come to be so large a part in library work that economic methods of storage and rapid process of handling are of more than passing interest to all librarians.

Mr Dana goes into detail on various lines in connection with his picture collection, which latter, as is well known, is his particular hobby.

The present condition of the Chicago public library was reviewed in the *Chicago Tribune* on December 14, by Dr Bernard J. Cigrand, who prepared the material by request of the *Tribune* for the annual number of the *Tribune*.

The total number of books is given as 420,827 v.; number of card holders, 120,447. There are 93 delivery stations and 21 branch reading rooms through which books are circulated. The number of traveling libraries and delivery stations have been located in large industrial centers, in department stores and in commercial institutions. Through one of these, 40,000 books were circulated in 11 months. The report is most complimentary to the present management of the library.

An "Index of periodical literature relating to library economy, printing, methods of publishing, copyright, bibliography, etc.," has been compiled by H. G. T. Cannons, borough librarian, Finsbury, London, E. C. This important work is now going through the press and will fill

a large octavo volume of 500 pages, comprising over 15,000 entries chronologically arranged under subject headings, forming a much-needed guide to professional literature for the librarian. The articles appearing in all the library publications, 1876-1909, have been classified under a subject index that in itself will be of tremendous help. The work will sell for \$2 in the United States, and it ought to be in every library of any size as well as in the professional library of every librarian.

The American Catholic Who's Who, contains sketches of 2500 American Catholics prominent in the professions, arts, sciences, and business; and is an attempt to cover this field for the United States, Canada, Cuba, Porto Rico, Philippines, and the American colonies in London, Paris, and Rome. The records are all based upon first-hand data, and only Catholics are included, many of whom are leaders in their profession. The number of popular writers of the day is large. The book is the work of Georgina Pell Curtis, author of *Roads to Rome in America*, assisted by William Stetson Merrill of the Newberry library, Chicago.

Circular of information No. 7, issued by Wisconsin free library commission, is devoted to "Traveling libraries in Wisconsin, with a directory of stations," and is compiled by Lutie E. Stearns, chief of the library department before the commission.

A dotted map of Wisconsin, showing the traveling library stations, gives an idea of growth and territory pretty well worked up, particularly in some of the counties, by the traveling library department.

Cuts showing the outlook in various parts of the country districts add interest to the story of the work.

The history of the traveling library movement in Wisconsin forms an interesting story of library extension. Full-page cuts show the kindly faces of the late Hon. James H. Stout and F. A. Hutchins, to the latter of whom the

library cause of Wisconsin owes more perhaps than can ever be acknowledged.

Two lists have appeared within a few weeks which are published on a somewhat new plan of co-operation between several large libraries and two manufacturers. A list of Books for home builders—planning, decorating, furnishing, is issued by the Sherwin-Williams Co. of Cleveland, the largest paint and oil manufacturers in the country. A list of Practical books for practical boys, is issued by Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co. of New York, a firm which since 1848 has sold a high grade of tools and supplies for mechanics and amateurs.

The lists were compiled by the District of Columbia public library, and the printing of about 40,000 copies of each list was undertaken by the two companies for the sake of advertising on the last two pages. The company names appear also on the front covers and title pages. In topography and press work the lists are of excellent design and appearance, the House builders' list having a deckle edge cover and tipped-on cover design. The cover imprint was changed for each of about 25 large libraries which will distribute the list and good results should follow in bringing the books and libraries to the notice of new readers. It is proposed to carry on this plan with other subjects as opportunity permits.

Vols. 9 and 10 in the series of Herbert Spencer's *Sociology*, edited by H. R. Tedder, secretary and librarian of the Athenæum club in London, have been issued.

Vol. 9 deals with China, and Vol. 10 with the Hellenic era of the Greeks. The volume on China has been made specially comprehensive, more so than any work that has yet been attempted on China, and will be specially welcome as an authentic source of information as to the sociological development of a country in whose history general interest is largely increasing.

### Library Schools

#### Carnegie library of Pittsburgh

##### Training school for children's librarians

The tenth year of the training school for children's librarians began on October 12, with 37 students, the largest enrollment since its organization. There are 27 who have had college training, 18 carrying college degrees; 13 have had previous experience in library service; 18 states are represented.

##### Drexel institute

Miss Schick was elected president of the class of 1911, and Miss French appointed as student representative on the advisory board.

Eveline Crandall Lyon of '98 took charge of the medical department of the University of Minnesota library Nov. 1, 1910.

The Pennsylvania state college has included in its curriculum a course in bibliography and reference books, which Martha Conner Drexel, '02, is conducting.

The annual meeting of the alumnae was held on Wednesday evening, November 9, in the picture gallery of the institute, and officers were elected as follows: President, Caroline Bell Perkins; vice-president, Emma L. Hellings; secretary-treasurer, Agnes MacAlister.

After the business meeting the alumnae received the class of 1911 and all tried their wits in guessing "What is it, and who wrote it?" from the final paragraphs of well-known books.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY,  
Director.

##### University of Illinois

During the month of November the school was particularly fortunate in the presence of visiting lecturers. Miss Allin, organizer of the Illinois library extension commission, made her first official visit to the school since her appointment, giving two interesting talks on her work on Monday, November 21; one a more or less formal report of her work as organizer, and a second informal talk, in which she took up in detail her work in the southern part of the state. Miss Allin is a graduate of the class of '03.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, after the Thanksgiving vacation, Miss Ahern, editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, visited the school. This was Miss Ahern's first visit in a number of years, and her presence was greatly enjoyed by the members of the school and the faculty. During her visit Miss Ahern gave three addresses, the first one being an account of the Brussels conference of last summer. The second lecture on the "Development of library journalism" called out the members of the classes in journalism as well as the students of the library school. Miss Ahern's last talk was a very practical one on the "Librarian and the business world." On Tuesday afternoon, Director and Mrs. P. L. Windsor entertained the members of the staff and the students and faculty of the library school in her honor.

Miss Ahern was a student in the library school, '95-'96, at Armour institute.

The Library club held its first meeting on the evening of November 19 in the form of an informal reception in honor of the junior class. The club was honored by the presence of President James and several of the general faculty who had given addresses to the school during the preceding year.

Gertrude Morton of Montezuma, Iowa, entered the junior class of the school after the Thanksgiving vacation.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

##### New York state library

The first visiting lecturer for the present school year was Sarah B. Askew, assistant state librarian of New Jersey, who gave, November 21-22, two lectures descriptive of her work as library organizer in the rural communities of the state. On December 9, A. J. Strohm, librarian of the Trenton (N. J.) public library, gave a lecture in the advanced administration course, describing in detail the work in his library. The other visiting lecturers scheduled for December are Austin B. Keep, who will lecture on "Colonial libraries," December 17, and Mary L. Jones, librarian of Bryn Mawr college, who will give, December 20-22, two lectures on "College library administration."

The collection of "published books, bibliographies, periodical articles, reports, etc.," by former students of the school has been systematically arranged and considerably enlarged. It is hoped that all former students will send the school for this collection a copy of any published material for which they are responsible.

The faculty and staff members connected with the work of the school were the guests of the students at a Christmas tree in the school lecture room Monday evening, December 12. All present received carefully chosen presents, accompanied by highly original presentation verses.

F. K. WALTER.

#### Pratt Institute

The class of 1910 organized late in October, electing Anna May (Wisconsin) president and Rachel Rhoades (Ohio) secretary-treasurer. The first formal function of the year took the form of a Hallowe'en party as a reception to the entering class by the Graduates' association. Seventy-four persons were present and every class graduated by the school was represented.

Miss Stearns' first lecture, October 6, was followed by an informal reception, at which the class had the opportunity not only of meeting Miss Stearns but one another in a social way.

Janet Lewis on October 31 gave a demonstration before the school and the library staff of her method of restoring old and dried bindings, putting life into the leather and giving the book an improved appearance and longer usefulness.

The class attended the meeting of the Long Island library club on October 20, at which the subject of local opportunities for extension work was discussed. The students were also invited to attend the meeting of the New York library club at Teachers' college on the evening of November 10, the program consisting of a book symposium.

At a meeting of the library chapter of the Neighborhood association, Miss Barney, of the class of '11, was elected president for the year.

Appointments and transfers reported by graduates are as follows:

Agnes Elliott, '96, resigned from the Aguilar branch of the New York public library to become librarian of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Manhattan.

Elsie Adams, '98, engaged as cataloger by the Queens Borough public library.

Winifred Waddell, '04, resigned from the librarianship of the Oak Park high school to become an assistant in the library of the School of education, Chicago, at the same time pursuing courses in the university.

Ruth Nichols, '05, resigned from the American Telephone and Telegraph Company to become assistant librarian of the Social museum, Chicago.

Mary Dawson, '10, engaged as assistant at the Aguilar branch of the New York public library.

Since the last report the school has listened to a talk by Miss W. L. Taylor, formerly in charge of the library's information-desk, on the "Suggestibility of books." As a member for many years of the book committee of a library board, Miss Taylor has had much experience in selecting books, and in fitting them to the needs and wants of readers.

On December 6, Montrose J. Moses, of New York, spoke on "The publisher and the child's book." A large number of chap-books and early gift-books for children, including imprints of E. Newbery and Isaiah Thomas, were on hand as illustrations.

A joint meeting of the Long Island and New York library clubs was held the evening of December 8, in the Art gallery of the library, the subject of the program being "The Christmas book-exhibit in libraries." The exhibits, both of adults' and children's books, were placed on the same floor in one of the school rooms, where the students assisted in answering questions, etc.

On December 20, the director entertained the class between term-examinations, at a kaffee-klatsch in the north class room, preliminary to the vacation separation.

## Graduates

Edyth Miller, '03, has been appointed head cataloger of the library of the Hispanic society of America, New York.

Miss Huestis, '09, has been appointed librarian of the Lincoln memorial college, near Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

Miss Noyes, '09, was married, December 3, at Oshkosh, Wis., to H. G. Barkhausen, of Green Bay.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

## Syracuse university

Edith Clarke, formerly cataloger of the U. S. superintendent of documents office, and more recently librarian of the University of Vermont, is giving a course on government documents.

In the course in Bibliography 3, the following lectures having been given to date: Principles of bibliography, incunabula and the German book-trade, and, German books, originals and translations, desirable for American public libraries, by Dr Charles Kullmer; Literature of European history, by Dr A. C. Flick; Literature of American history, by Dr Tanner; Bibliography of political science, by Professor Randall; Selected bibliography of American history, and, Brief bibliography of travel and politics of the Nearer East and a brief English bibliography of Islam, by Professor Wrench; Bibliography of sociology, by Dr P. A. Parsons.

Margaret B. Hawley, '03, has resigned as librarian of the Potsdam normal school to become librarian of the Norwood branch of the Cincinnati public library.

Laura Durand, '09, has resigned as assistant at Attleborough, Mass., to become reference librarian of the Cambridge (Mass.) public library.

On the Saturday following Thanksgiving, the library school faculty and staff entertained those students who remained at the university through the Thanksgiving recess.

Alpha of Pi Lambda Sigma, the library sorority, held its initiation and

banquet on December 7. Ollie E. Pillsbury, '07, was toastmistress. The initiates were, Abby Beaty of Johnsonville, N. Y.; Ruth King of Butte, Mont.; Jessica Leland of Jordon, N. Y., and Sue Saltsman of Dansville, N. Y.

MARY J. SIBLEY, Director.

## Western Reserve university

The course of lectures in children's work was opened the first week in December by Miss Power, first assistant, children's department of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh. Miss Power gave five lectures on different types of children's literature and one on instruction in library work and children's literature to normal school students.

In the course in book selection a new feature is being introduced as an experiment this year, namely, an occasional lecture on some group of authors, or of particular books that are less well known to the average student than the standard authors on the one hand or the best sellers on the other, and yet are of real merit and usefulness in a public library. The first of these lectures was given December 6 by Bessie Sargeant Smith, librarian of the Carnegie West branch. She reviewed a group of present-day novelists, both English and American, including such writers as Mrs De la Pasture and Anne Sedgwick. It is planned to present later in the year besides other groups of novelists, poets, essayists and dramatists.

On Saturday evening, December 10, the class of 1911 entertained informally in the rooms of the school for the faculty.

## Alumni notes

Jennie M. Flexner, '00, has been recently appointed to the position of classifier in the Free public library of Louisville, Ky.

Eliza Townsend, '05, has resigned her position with the Iowa state commission to become superintendent of branch work and work with children in the Public library of Spokane, Wash.



## Wisconsin

The routine work of the school has proceeded without interruption, excepting for the Thanksgiving recess. The courses in alphabeting and trade bibliography have been completed, including the final examinations given in both. The lectures on publishing houses were concluded with an exhibit prepared by the students on the history and work of the more important houses. In the course on book selection, the general introductory lectures on book reviewing, periodicals, annotations, etc., have thus far been considered; also history, biography, travel and philosophy. Several special lectures have been given in connection with this course, two by Dr R. G. Thwaites on "How history is written" and "Source material." The students have in the Wisconsin historical library unusual opportunity for the study of source material. Prof. D. C. Munro, of the history department of the University of Wisconsin, gave a lecture on the "Evaluation of books in European history." In the cataloging course the students are now having the usual practice in ordering and using Library of Congress cards.

Miss Ahern made her annual visit to the school December 7. At the request of the Preceptor she spoke to the students on the history and work of the Library Bureau. She also gave an interesting talk on the Brussels conference and European librarians at the home of Miss M. F. Carpenter. The students enjoyed their opportunity to meet Miss Ahern personally and found her visit one of help and inspiration.

## School Notes

On Saturday evening, November 5, the students, assisted by Prof. T. H. Dickinson, of the English department of the University of Wisconsin, gave a dramatic reading of Maeterlinck's "Blue bird" at Miss Hazeltine's home. So enjoyable did the evening prove that the students enthusiastically agreed to keep up these readings. "The piper," by Josephine Preston Peabody, will be read next.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE.

## News from the Field

## East

Rebecca W. Wright, at one time connected with the Boston athenæum library, has been appointed secretary of the Vermont library commission, to succeed Miss Hobart, resigned.

The new building of the New Bedford (Mass.) public library was opened on December 1, with formal ceremonies, at which addresses were made by distinguished speakers, and after which thousands of citizens inspected the new building. The occasion was made a notable one in the history of New Bedford.

The report of the Public library of Stockbridge, Mass., records a circulation of 12,047 v. The branch libraries contributed a large number of the borrowers. The official records of the armies of the Civil war took up so much space in the library and were so little used that the books were returned to Washington city. The library received a number of gifts during the year.

The annual report of the City library association of Springfield records 175,460 v. on the shelves, of which 10,598 were added during the year.

The library has 115,000 pictures and prints. The circulation for home use was 527,699 v. and 15,072 pictures and prints.

The two new branch libraries have brought increased circulation and are administered as integral parts of the library system. All branch librarians work part of the time in the main library.

Besides the two branches, the distributing system comprises 276 minor agencies, school rooms, Sunday schools, fire stations, post office, settlement clubs, etc.

Many musical scores, including full orchestra scores, have been added to the department of music. Lists on voice culture have been distributed to singing teachers and a printed catalog of music has been prepared.

The report included a description of the new library building nearing completion, at a cost of about \$350,000.

The City library association comprises

besides the library and art museums, a museum of natural history, each in a separate building.

The annual report of Yale university library records an expenditure of \$70,600, of which \$36,500 was for salaries, \$23,700 for books and serials.

Attention is called to the difficulty of meeting the expenses of enlarged library functions, owing to the growth of the university service. The increased size of the library and the growth in the use of its contents calls for a more elaborate system of rules to reduce the movements of users to order.

The loss of books reported is not large, and carelessness, not willfulness, is the cause given for their disappearance.

The enumeration of gifts and bequests shows a long list of the same. The university library contains upward of 600,000 v.

The establishment of a bureau for translating books in rare foreign languages is meeting with favor. A system of staff meetings to encourage an interest in general reading has been productive of better service and more intelligent comprehension of the work of the library.

Considerable space is given to the 30-odd departmental libraries and their relation to the central library.

The recataloging of the library continues.

The Hartford public library was kept open for the most of the year under great difficulties on account of the repairs and enlargements in the building. The periodical room was closed from September till May and the daily papers were discontinued from that time, but through the courtesy of the Watkinson reference library other periodicals were removed there for the use of the readers. The reference room was closed during April. The new room, made from the well-lighted part of the old periodical room, has oak reading tables, steel shelves, map cases and filing cases for pictures of the most modern design made by the Library Bureau. The other part of the room has been made into a hall, opening into the

old entrance hall, the staircase in which now goes up on one side instead of in the middle. The rooms now on the right, formerly used for the natural history collection and the storeroom of the Connecticut historical society, are now made into a well-lighted and sunny periodical room. The library thus has the whole floor of the Athenæum, with an entrance from the front, a workroom in the old reference room and a convenient staff-room in the basement. The delivery room was closed for the last week of May and first week of June to put new steel shelves in place for about 20,000 v. Nearly 20,000 v. were circulated in the schools. Book sets of the different grades were given out by the teachers once a week and returned at the end of the school year. These books were not supplemental reading but such as children would take for pleasure if they were not so far away from the library.

The cost of improvements in the building was met by the Athenæum. The library has met the expense of stacks, fixtures and furniture to the amount of \$4500.

Notwithstanding the disturbance incident to improvement, the circulation at the delivery desk of the juvenile room was 198,000 v.; at the branches, 27,673 v.; additions for the year, 5673 v.; 2132 new applications for, and 2399 renewals of, reader's cards.

#### Central Atlantic

Ethelwyn Gaston, Pratt, '09, has been appointed librarian of the Millersville (Pa.) normal school.

Grace Child, Pratt, '97, has resigned the librarianship at Derby to become librarian of the Newark (N. J.) high school.

The Pratt institute library had an exhibition of books suitable for Christmas gifts, arranged in two parts, those for the children and those for the older people.

Miss Plummer's new book for young readers, "Stories from the chronicle of the Cid," is dedicated to the "boys who use the children's room of the Pratt institute free library, Brooklyn."

Mary F. Macrum, connected with the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh from its opening in 1895, died November 1.

Miss Macrum in January, 1909, on account of ill health, retired from active work. She was engaged as a librarian for 27 years, first in the Mercantile library of Pittsburgh, afterwards in the Carnegie library. She was a highly valued member of library circles in Pittsburgh and of the community generally.

The American manufacturers have established a place of Exchange in New York City, Hudson Terminal building, the main part of which will be a library. The library will contain principally manufacturers' catalogs. These will be classed, with an index, for the use of buyers, who will pay for the privilege of using them.

The Exchange has over 3000 members and is expected to increase it manyfold in a short time.

The idea is not only to have a permanent and comprehensive collection of trade literature but also to provide a neutral ground in the business district where buyers and representatives of business manufacturers can meet. The comfort of buyers is the prevailing idea of the new venture.

Besides the public rooms of the library, there are rooms for confidential business transactions.

The annual report of the Public library of Easton, Pa., shows an addition of 1731 v.; total number on the shelves, 23,010 v.; active number of card holders, 3575; circulation, 80,012 v.; 13,923 v. were circulated from the children's room.

The stereopticons owned by the library have been in great demand and are loaned to schools, clubs and individuals in the same manner as books.

Two courses of six lectures each were given by the library during the year. These lectures paid for themselves and left a balance in the lecture fund of \$104.92.

The librarian proposes in the report a unique plan of fitting up a trolley car as

a library, to be sent out to the principal factories in Easton, delivering books at the noon hour. This car could be used also as a branch library in remote districts certain evenings in the week. The total outlay for this service would be the initial cost of \$1200 for the car and its fittings and \$600 yearly for running it.

#### Central

Anna Lois Gray, Ill., '09-10, has been appointed assistant librarian in the Muncie (Ind.) public library.

Gilbert O. Ward (Pratt, '08) has been appointed supervisor of work in the high school libraries of Cleveland.

Alice Mann, Ill., '03, former librarian of Kewanee public library, was married on October 26 to Charles H. Sheldon of Kewanee.

Carrie B. Sheldon, Ill., '06, until recently librarian of Ottawa (Kan.) public library, was married December 20 to Benjamin Franklin Bowers of Ottawa.

Frederick W. Lehmann of St. Louis, for many years president of the Public library board of that city, has been appointed solicitor-general of the United States.

The new library building of the Reuben McMillan free library, Youngstown, Ohio, was dedicated on December 3. Andrew Carnegie gave \$50,000 toward the new building.

Alice Marple, who has been at the head of the reference department of the Public library of Des Moines, Iowa, for a number of years, has resigned her position to accept a similar one in the State historical department.

The Public library of Clinton, Iowa, celebrated Library day on November 11 with a most interesting program. The principal address was made by Hon. Irving B. Richman of Muscatine, past president of the Iowa library association. Mr Richman took for his subject "How to enjoy American history—including that of Iowa." He traced the relations of history to romance and of poetry to history. He urged the lovers of poetry

to study the pages of history that they may enjoy its full measure rather than to read poetry for the beauty of verse alone. He talked interestingly of Indian history in the state of Iowa and pointed out a number of historical incidents of interest to the citizens of Iowa.

The library of the Western reserve historical society of Cleveland has acquired a splendid collection of historical papers, belonging to Governor Allen Trimble. The number of manuscripts is estimated at 2000 pieces of all kinds.

A resolution has been passed by the library board of the Chicago public library reducing the three-cent fine as applied to children who keep books beyond the prescribed two weeks, to one cent. Librarian Legler has found that the three-cent fine is prohibitive among many poor children.

The twenty-eighth annual report of the Public library of St Paul, Minn., records 110,277 v. on the shelves. The total number of card holders is 36,173. The circulation from the main library has been less than in previous years, but the stations show increased use. The total circulation was 409,028 v., a gain of nearly 30,000 over last year.

The vacation schools and playgrounds were furnished with traveling libraries during the summer.

The twenty-fifth annual report of the Public library of Jackson, Mich., shows 33,692 v. in the library, of which 1168 were added during the year; 5585 v. were recataloged during the year in the general recataloging of the entire library. In the children's room an analytical catalog of all collections of fairy tales has been made, showing all the places a given story may be found in its various versions. A well equipped auditorium seating 200 people has been completed.

Mrs Clara P. Barnes, for the past 15 years librarian of the Public library, Kenosha, Wis., has resigned her position, to take effect the first of the year.

Mrs Barnes has been connected with the library from the first and has seen

it grow from a small institution in rented quarters to a strong library, well endowed, with a beautiful building, and a circulation of nearly 100,000 v. a year.

Mrs Barnes resigned because of the feeling that there is more physical strength required to conduct a library of the present size of the library at Kenosha than she could afford to give. She carries with her in her retirement the heartiest good-will and appreciation of the public of Kenosha, expressed privately and publicly in the press of the city.

According to reports from the Public library at St Paul, Minn., the experiment tried of having games in the juvenile room has proved unsatisfactory. The place was rendered so noisy that the regular work of the department was seriously interfered with and the library authorities have decided to discontinue the experiment.

Miss Fairchild, chairman of the civic committee of the Thursday club, at whose suggestion the games were placed at the library, said that more than 1000 children had been entertained by the games in the library, and she thinks it would have been a continued success if a separate room had been given them.

The game department started with only one attendant, provided by the Civic club, and it was found necessary to employ three additional helpers, which number was scarcely sufficient to adequately care for the project.

The St Louis public library has begun a house to house delivery of books from the main library and its branches to card holders by a special messenger, under arrangement with the Missouri District Telegraph Company. The charge for service varies according to the distance from the library from which the book is taken. The card holder may give the information concerning the book wanted at the central library by telephone and the library will summon the messenger and send the book to the card holder, and it will be delivered on payment of the messenger fee. The money goes to the telegraph company.

When a book is to be returned by the

messenger, he is given his fee with the book and a card. This latter will be retained at the library until another book is taken out in this way.

If the library finds that there is sufficient use of this delivery service, it may decide to employ its own messengers. It is thought that the cost of the system will never be low enough for card holders to make regular use of it, but it may be a valuable adjunct to the library service in case of an emergency. The price ranges from 10 cents for four blocks or less to 60 cents for the utmost of the city limits.

The first annual report of the Illinois library extension committee covers nine months' actual duties.

The secretary reports that experience with the commission law during that time proves that it meets all needs and covers all necessary lines. The growth of the work has been steady and satisfactory.

The process of reorganizing the traveling library collections presented by the Illinois Federation of women's clubs is progressing as rapidly as funds and time will allow. A total of 40 cases of traveling libraries have circulated, containing 1318 books. Visits to 17 towns in southern Illinois were made in May. A number of short trips has been made in other directions.

The commission has been officially represented at three of the meetings of the Illinois Federation of women's clubs, at the American library association, and the League of library commissions. Other meetings have been attended and some normal schools visited.

A letter was sent to the mayors of 114 towns, from 1000 to 3500 population, inquiring as to the public libraries of the towns. Only 46 answers were received.

There are 27 counties in Illinois without a public library.

Information requested to date may be classed as follows: Advice, 4; club work, 6; commencement, 1; convention program, 1; general, 42; help desired, 11; special information, 22; organizer, 13; positions wanted, 6; program (club), 4;

traveling libraries, 60; visits made by organizer, 20.

The biennial report of the North Dakota public library commission contains some interesting statistics. The number of traveling library stations have increased from 19 in 1908 to 138 in 1910; number of traveling libraries from 19 to 117; number of books in traveling libraries from 851 to 6158; number of public and institutional libraries from 27 to 32; number of Carnegie library buildings from 6 to 8; number of farmers' libraries (technical), 25.

The growth since July 1, 1910, has been even more rapid. In September, 1910, 11 new stations were established; in October, 15, and in November, 22. Other branches of the commission's work—legislative reference and educational reference—are meeting with the same appreciation from the citizens of the state. Two new library buildings—a \$15,000 Carnegie building at Fargo college and a \$20,000 James memorial building at Williston—are being completed this fall.

The commission's work is in charge of Mrs. Minnie Clarke Budlong, who is college-bred, with a year's training in Wisconsin library school, six years of business experience at the capitol and a thorough knowledge of the field of work and its needs. Those qualifications combined with an optimistic faith in the future of the state ought to produce results.

The work of the commission received the following indorsement from the State teachers' association at its annual meeting in October:

The association commends the work of the Library commission in preparing traveling libraries and farmers' libraries for rural communities, appreciating especially the effort to furnish books that shall be helpful in country schools, and recommends the extension of field work among library stations as an important factor in the educational system of the state.

#### South

The Fort Worth (Texas) museum of art held its second annual exhibition of paintings by American artists assembled by the American Federation of Arts, Washington, D. C., at the Carnegie



library building, Nov. 28, 1910, Jan. 2, 1911.

An exhibition held by the Public library of Greensboro, N. C., was an interesting event in November. The collections on exhibition were furnished by the boys of the town. A large number of visitors were present during the two days and much interest was developed in the library as well as in the exhibition.

Eleven prizes were awarded, though a much larger number of exhibits were on display. Among the exhibitions receiving prizes were a wireless sending and receiving station, a general electric exhibition, Indian exhibition, stamp collection, coin collection, birds' eggs, best handwork (not electrical apparatus), drawing and modeling and manual work.

Chalmers Hadley, for the past 18 months secretary of the American library association at headquarters in Chicago, has been appointed librarian of Denver public library to succeed C. R. Dudley, resigned.

Mr Hadley was born in Indianapolis, in 1873, of Quaker parentage. He was educated in the public schools of Indianapolis and in 1896 was graduated from Earlham college, Richmond. For six years Mr. Hadley was connected with newspapers in Philadelphia and Indianapolis. In 1904 he was connected with the Indianapolis state library. The year 1905-06 he spent at New York State library school. In 1906 he became secretary and state organizer for the Indiana library commission, which position he held until he became secretary of the A. L. A.

While connected with the Indiana library commission, Mr Hadley directed for three years a summer library school, conducted by the state commission. In 1906-07, Mr Hadley acted as president of the league of library commissions. He was also chairman of the league committee which drew up the model library commission law. He has served on various committees of the A. L. A., as president of the professional training

section and also as president of New York state library school association.

As secretary of the A. L. A., he has been consulted regarding all kinds of library matters by cities and interested persons throughout the country. As representative of the A. L. A. at various state library meetings, his circle of acquaintances and also of library observations have been considerably widened.

#### Pacific coast

Lois Criswell, Ill., '09-10, has been appointed substitute in the Tacoma (Wash.) public library.

Nellie McGinley, for several years assistant of the Public library of San Jose, Cal., has been appointed librarian to succeed Miss Barnby, resigned.

John B. Kaiser, B. L. S., New York, '10, assistant librarian, Texas state library, was married November 14 to Gertrude Swift at Los Angeles, Cal.

Elizabeth R. Topping, New York, '09-10, has been appointed to take charge of the legislative reference work and debate libraries for the Oregon library commission.

The annual report of the Public library of Long Beach, Cal., records the number of books in the library as 18,373; total home circulation, 171,898; circulation of pictures, 4109. Amount expended for employes' salaries, \$4901; for books and magazines, \$3641.

Pomona (Cal.) public library in its twentieth annual report shows 17,710 v.; a total of 6849 active members, amounting to 68 per cent of the whole population of the city; a circulation of 82,972, with a fiction per cent of 56. Receipts for the year, \$9396; disbursements, \$6667.

New features are a) a vacation privilege of more than one 30-day book on a card; 2) the shelving of novels on the same subject, as Religious novels, or California stories, near the new books, the group being changed often; 3) a loan collection, to be drawn in addition to books from the regular library.

The library continues its policy of com-

pleting periodical sets as fast as means permit. It now contains 65 partial and 12 complete files. "Pomona has the only public library of any size within a radius of 25 miles. As a consequence our reference department serves not this city only but also many of the neighboring towns. Thus the library is a lodestone, drawing people to the city. Most of these outsiders do some trading while here. The advantages accruing to our merchants from an attractive and efficient library are manifest. The rooms are now far too small. We have neither shelves for our books nor seats for our patrons. Unless the library may expand it must lose in usefulness."

#### Foreign

Mary L. Hornby was presented by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool recently with an illuminated vellum scroll enclosed in a silver casket. The scroll records the acknowledgment and thanks of the library committee for her gifts made to the city library during the past 15 years of books for the blind in Braille type, comprising over 1000 volumes. The books have been of great value in the work of the library with its blind readers.

The thirteenth annual report of the Leeds public library, England, records a circulation of 1,471,696 v., the largest circulation but one in the history of the library.

The issue in the reference department was 134,765 v., the largest being in the department of sociology, 4556. Natural science came next with 1152.

The number of volumes added to the library during the year was 9592. The total number now in the library is 283,768, of which 144,610 are in the branch libraries. The number of card holders is 33,500.

An order for 100 copies of "The life of Harry Watts, sailor and diver," published by Hills & Co., Sunderland, England, has been given by Mr Carnegie. Mr Watts has saved 36 lives at personal risk on separate occasions, and has as-

sisted in saving over 120 others with lifeboat and life-line apparatus.

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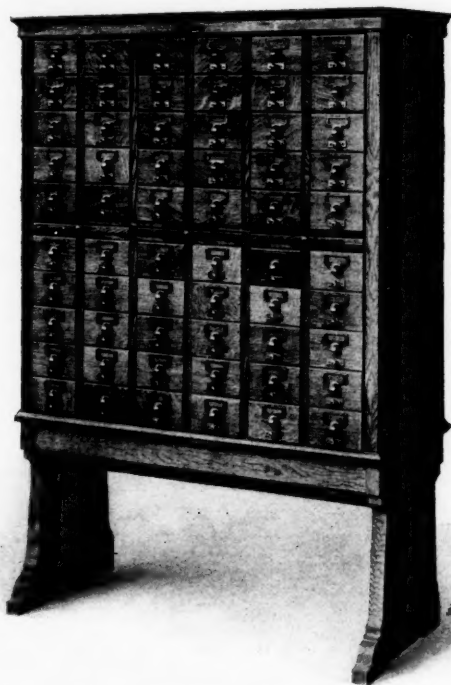
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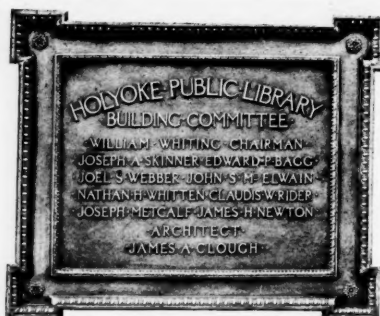
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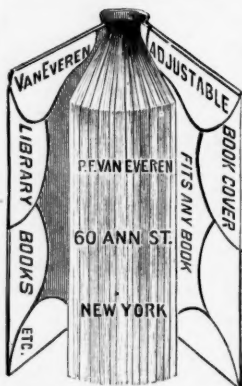
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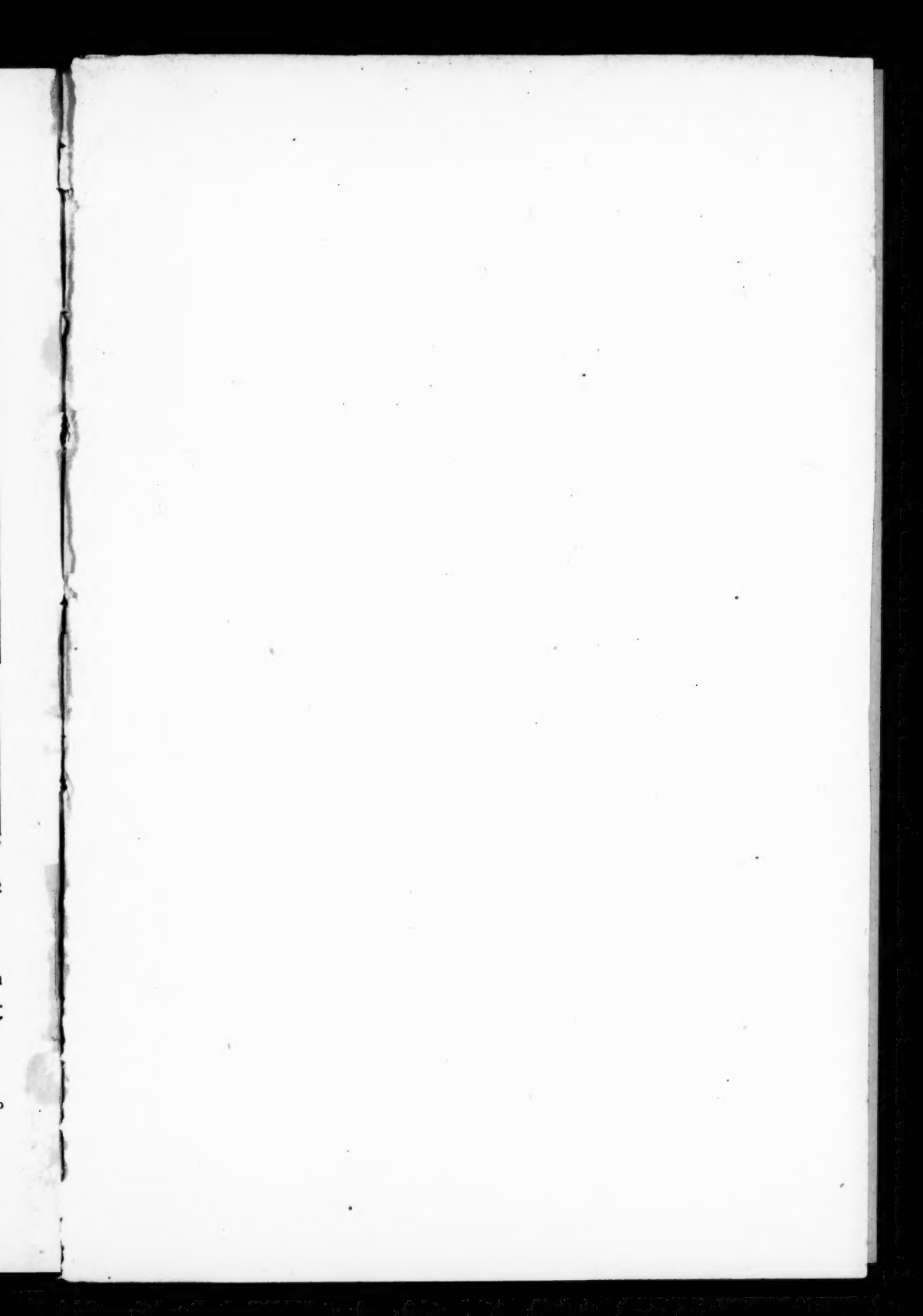
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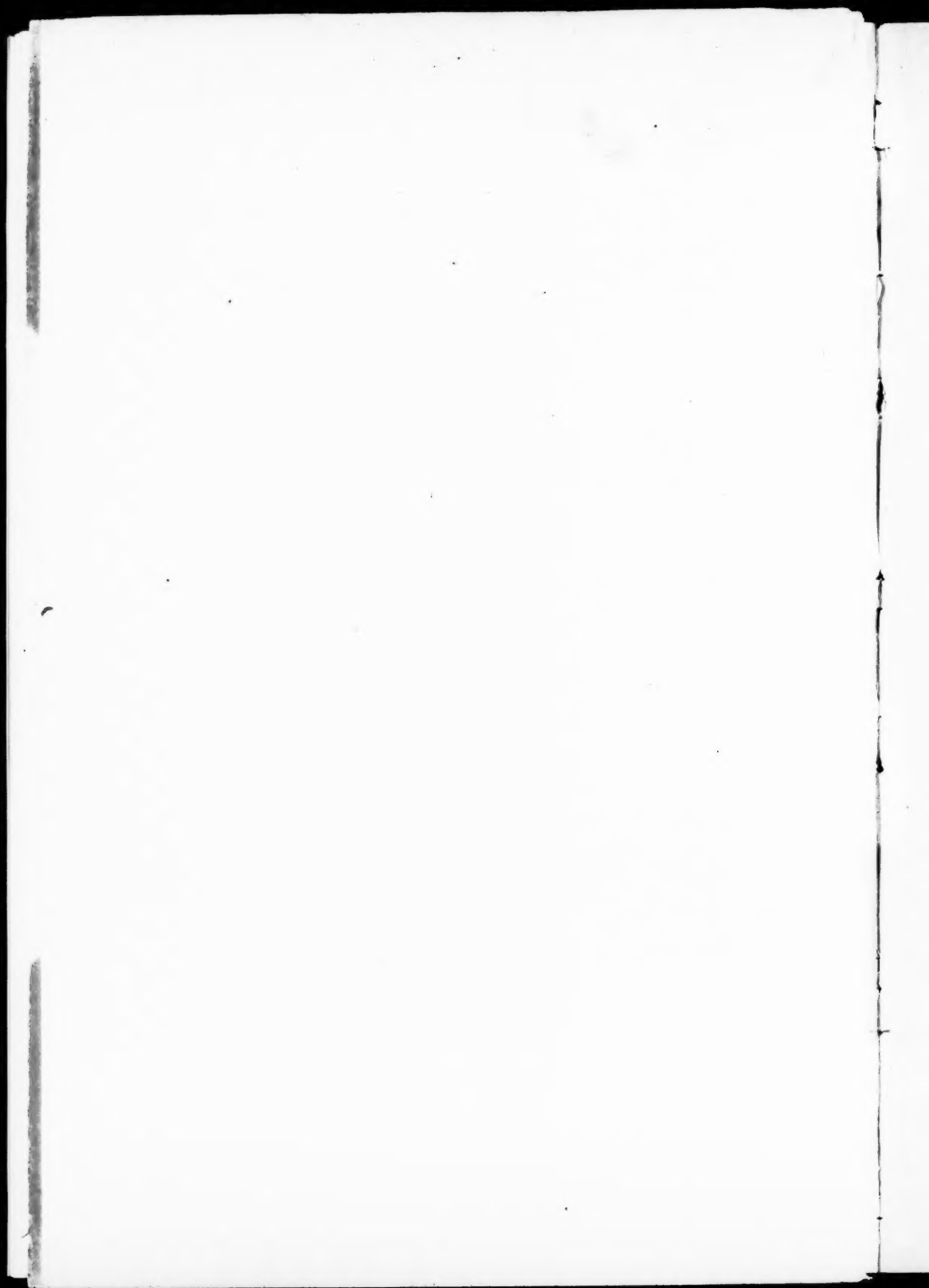
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